



Zero Beat



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

Our 59th Year

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

October, 2004

How to use
contesting
to your
advantage...
earn awards,
sharpen your
skills, etc...

K1MZ

MARC CAMERLIN



Meeting Time **Friday, Oct 1ST**

Feeding Hills Congregational Church, Doors open at 7:PM

Don't miss **Tech Corner** (from 7 to 7:30)

This month's Tech Corner topic: IRLP

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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President's



K1MZ operating at Field Day

Corner

This Month's Speaker Marc Camerlin—K1MZ



Do you ever wonder what goes on during a typical contest? Have I heard you say, "contesting, that's not for me!" Did you have fun at Field Day this year? How would you like to have more fun like that at home this weekend? Well, I suggest you attend this month's meeting and learn the answers to these and many other questions.

Our own Marc Camerlin, K1MZ will be sharing with us a lot of reasons why contesting can be fun. Not only fun, but a good way to accomplish more with your amateur radio hobby. Contesting is a great way to collect new states and countries, improve your station and fine tune your operating abilities.

Marc, an active ham for many years holds a BSEE and MBA from WNEC and is presently an R&D project manager for Westinghouse. K1MZ has specialized in RF circuit and system design and applied much of that experience to modifications of his Elecraft transceivers. When not playing radio Marc enjoys attending sporting events with his three children, taking care of a new home and of course, preparing a great presentation for you at the October meeting.

November 5th Meeting The HCRA Auction Returns!

There is only a month left to get your stuff (junk?) together and bring it to the HCRA annual auction. One of New England's biggest amateur auctions it usually draws over 100 people every year to swap gear for money or vice-versa. Who says eBay is taking all the fun out of swapping stuff?

Our annual auction returns this year, bigger and better than ever. Expect the usual and a few new things too. The usual; lots of people, lots of stuff and **LOTS** of fun. The unusual? This year we have a few new things. First, this year's auction will feature a benefit collection for the WB1Z Memorial Fund. I'm sure you all remember the more intelligent half of the J&J auction team of the past five years. Unfortunately Jim became a silent key this April. To honor his dedication to HCRA and contribution to amateur radio the hat will be passed. HCRA will match the money collected and donate it to the ARRL foundation in Jim's name. Second, we have a SUPER prize this year. Where else can you purchase a raffle ticket for only \$1 and go home with an Icom IC-703 HF QRP rig? The HCRA auction, that's where!



Win an Icom IC-703 at the November Auction. Tickets on sale now!

Venture Crew DX will be on hand to help out and start their fund drive for next year's Jamboree. Their help will be greatly appreciated during the auction, this stuff gets heavier every year.

Rules for the auction? Simple and easy. Bring your stuff, put your name and call (if you have one) on the item and a minimum bid if you so desire. The auctioneers will sell your item for as much as we can get for it. HCRA receives 10% of the selling price (up to \$100). You go home with cash and the lucky bidder goes home with a new purchase. It's simple, fun and a great way to clear out extra stuff in your shack. The auctioneers reserve the right to combine small items in order to speed up the bidding process. The auction is always great fun, mark your calendar and don't miss it.

Win this neat HT! Renew or join early and win!

The HCRA wants **YOU** to join early again this year. Why? Because the quicker everyone either joins or renews the better we can budget our activities for the upcoming season.



This is our third year repeating the 'sign-up raffle'. Simply put, join or renew by the end of the October 1st meeting and you could win an Yaesu VX-150R Handi-Talkie. The HT covers 2 meters with 5 watts, has a big display, full keypad and includes rechargeable batteries and charger.

Everyone who is a paid member by the end of the meeting will have one chance to win the Yaesu. You don't need to be present to win and it doesn't cost anything extra. How can we do this? The money we save by not having to mail out renewal notices and full runs of Zero Beat pay for the prize. Rather than give the money to the USPS and the printer, HCRA gives it back to its members. Again, it's our way of saying "thanks" for joining early.

BPL The fight continues...

After last month's meeting I'm sure everyone is aware of Northeast Utilities BPL test being conducted in Feeding Hills, MA. Just in case you missed the meeting a quick review. BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) is a new method of distributing broadband internet. Instead of cable or telephone lines it uses the power lines in your street. The only problem is the frequencies used are between 2 and 80 MHz—right in the middle of our ham bands! Northeast Utilities is testing BPL in a small area starting near Agawam High School on Mill Street and running West about 3/4 mile.



A small group of local hams have formed a BPL team to combat any problems arising from the test. Members of the Feeding Hills Assessment Team (FHAT) include Ed Hare, W1RFI; Tom Frenay, K1K1, Bob McCormick, W1QA and Bob Meneguzzo, K1YO. A meeting with Northeast Utilities is scheduled soon and Marty will fill in the membership of that meeting.

One thing you could do to help is report any amateur band interference from BPL you hear in the test area. Although there are quite a few hams in the area it seems few, if any, are presently active. If you are operating mobile in the test area and hear any interference please report it to the team and I'll forward it to the team. The utilities are being told by BPL vendors their equipment does not cause interference, it's up to us to prove them wrong.

Morse Code, HF and you Why wait?

It appears the FCC will not be acting soon on the many proposals to reduce or eliminate the Morse requirement for operating on HF. There have been quite a few new hams licensed recently and I've heard a few speak of waiting for the rules change so they can get on HF. I know it seems difficult but take my word for it (because I said the same thing many years ago). Get a code tape, CD or computer program and spend a few hours with it. It's really not that difficult, all it takes is some steady practice and you won't be sorry. A whole new universe of amateur waits just around the corner.

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and
Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

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

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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

Larry, WB1DBY, 567-3505, wb1dby@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

Kx1x, Node #7270,

S.Hadley, MA

On the Internet
<http://www.hcra.org>
Updated often to bring you timely Amate
news and info

IRLP Node #7270
146.46 Mhz -- PL 114.8
A free service of HCRA
See www.hcra.org

Next Meeting:
Friday, October 1st
Welcome Back Raffle
Marc, K1MZ on Contesting

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.

Get On The Air

(all times local)

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic Sys (NTS) Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Mondays	19:30	HCRA 10m Net	28.375
Wednesdays	19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link) (W1TOM)
	20:00	MTARA Swap 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			Amherst Machine KD1XP License Exams 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 http://www.mtara.org 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA
4 th Friday of the month	18:00	MTARA License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke
			Contact Dave, W1FAB, W1FAB@arrl.net
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!!!

Dr. DX

Already October! That means the start of Contest Season. Those of you attending the October meeting will see Marc, K1MZ and his presentation on contesting. This month is a great month to start! We have the CQWW contests, some good QSO Parties, and next month's Sweepstakes! For those of you who don't like to contest that much, CQWW is an international contest – the DX'peditions will be active, all bands, for both the CW and SSB weekends. For more information, visit www.cqww.com.



Start	End	Entity	Call	QSL via	Info
2004 Oct01	2004 Oct10	Vanuatu	YJOAX	VK4TI	By VK4TI; 40 20 15 10m; mainly for Oceania DX Test (SSB), some activity outside; QSL: PO Box 1647, Toowoomba QLD 4350, Australia
2004 Oct01	2004 Oct13	Mayotte	FH	ZS6WPX Direct	By ZS6WPX as FH/ZS6WPX
2004 Oct01	2004 Oct15	São Tomé	S92BWW	CT1BWW	By CT1BWW fm Rolas Is (AF-023); HF + 6m
2004 Oct02	2004 Oct09	Algeria	7W0AD	EA4URE	By EA1QF EA3CUU EA4BT EA7AAW EA7JB EA7TL EB4EPJ
2004 Oct03	2004 Oct17	Seychelles	S79	Home Call	By DJ7RJ DJ4SO as S79RJ and S79SO; 40-6m, seeking permission for 80m (3505±); CW SSB RTTY PSK31
2004 Oct09	2004 Oct15	Wallis & Futuna	FW7	Home Call	By JA7OV JA7AQR as FW7OV and FW7AQR fm Wallis Is (OC-054); 40-10m; SSB RTTY; 15m yagi + dipoles; 100w; QRV as 3D2TY(JA7OV) and 3D2YT (JA7AQR) briefly before and after; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2004 Oct09	2004 Oct18	Western Kiribati	T30KU	DL2AH	By DL2AH fm Tarawa; 20-10m; SSB RTTY PSK31; delta loop; holiday style operation; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct
2004 Oct11	2004 Oct13	San Andres Island	HK0	EA7FTR	By EA9CP fm NA-033 as HK0/EA9CP
2004 Oct15	2004 Oct23	Chesterfield Islands	TX/c	Buro	By DL5NAM DJ8NK DK9KX DJ9ON DL3KDV DJ9RR fm OC-176; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY; Direct QSL also OK (see Web page)
2004 Oct15	2004 Nov05	Cambodia	XU7ACE	ES1FB	By ES1FB
2004 Oct20	2004 Oct24	Tuvalu	T20	DL2AH	By DL2AH fm Funafuti; 20-10m; SSB RTTY PSK31; delta loop; holiday style operation; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct
2004 Oct20	2004 Nov02	Gambia	C5	ON4ACA	By ON4ACA; SSB CW, perhaps 160 + 80m; QRV for CQWW DX SSB
2004 Oct25	2004 Nov09	Western Kiribati	T30T	K7ZZ	By K7ZZ fm Tarawa; focus on WARC CW; low power; QRV for CQWW DX SSB; all QSO OK via LotW
2004 Oct26	2004 Oct31	South Orkney Islands	VP8SIG	GM0HCQ	By GM0HCQ fm Signy Base; exact dates tentative
2004 Oct26	2004 Nov06	Seychelles	S79MH	HB9OCR	By HB9OCR fm Praslin Is; HF bands, save 80m; QRV for CQWW DX SSB
2004 Oct29	2004 Nov03	Palau	T88QQ	JA1KAJ	By JA1KAJ fm OC-009; 80-6m; SSB CW RTTY; QRV for CQWW DX SSB

There are some good entities and some good reasons to get on the radio this October. The conditions look better already, and hopefully they will hold out for the next few weeks. Get those last minute antennas up! 73' es good DX, de KB1FWN



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

Youth President
Adult Advisor
Adult Advisor

Luke Dyson, KB1ISP
John Pise, Kx1x (413) 532-7474
Dave Cain, AA1YW

luke@penguinia.net
kx1x@arrl.net
aa1yw@arrl.net

BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

HCRA Meeting – October 1st Officer Elections
Boy Scout Camporee JOTA -- October 15,16,17
Venturer's Camporee -- October 29, 30, 31
HCRA Auction -- November 5th

Volunteers Needed

On the afternoon of October 17th there will be a walk in Monson. It's an easy event and about 6 communicators should do it. All you need is a 2M HT.

Anyone interested can send me an e-mail steve@krolyses.com or call me in the evenings on the 147.105 repeater.
73's de Steve, N1NPC

Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Assn. News

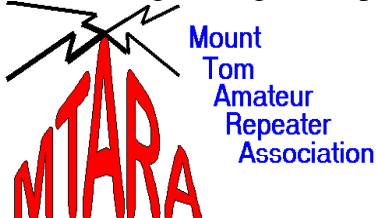
www.mtara.org

IRLP is on the 146.67 machine!

Use a prefix of "67" to access. See www.mtara.org

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

Meetings on the
3rd Friday of the Month, 7:30
Red Cross Building, Cottage St., Spfld



KD1XP Repeater Group News

53.350 (-) PL 71.9 Amherst, MA
145.130 (-) PL 173.8 Amherst, MA
442.200 (+) PL 162.2 Deerfield, MA (near Greenfield)
443.450 (+) PL 173.8 Leyden, MA (near Greenfield)
443.700 (+) PL 71.9 Belchertown, MA

The next ham radio testing session will be on Monday, October 18th at Amherst Machine on Cowls Road in Amherst, MA. ALL test elements given. Contact Richard, KD1XP at 665-2211 for details

www.kd1xp.org has a great listing of local frequencies for scanner listening, Check it out and please add to it if you know a frequency that is not there.

*Breakfast meetings every first Saturday of the month at Bickfords in Northampton.
Talk in on the 145.130 repeater.*

www.kd1xp.org

KD1XP
repeater group

Grand Raffle Prize
Icom IC-703
QRP HF Transceiver w/tuner



AUCTION

November 5th !!!

Turn your old 'stuff' into

- *Set-up at 6:30 PM*
- *Auction starts at 7:30 PM*
- *Win a Icom IC-703!*
- *Coffee & Donuts!*
- *Lots of bargains!*



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

Auction held at:

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

Just North of Dunkin' Donuts at the
intersection of routes 57 and 187

Talk-in on the 146.94 repeater

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.

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



HCRA board Meeting September 9, 2004

Held at the home of Larry WB1DBY

Members present: Jim KK1W, Larry WB1DBY, Greg N1AEH, Dave KB1MU, John N1JIO, Jim KB1JVF, John Kx1x, Peter K1II, and Marty W1MJB.

Vice President W1MJB:

Raffle prizes for Oct raffle is a MaHa charger plus some other small items. Prize for Membership Renewal Raffle is Yaesu VX150 Handie Talkie. Marty will investigate best method to sell various items donated to the HCRA during the past year. Much will be sold at the Nov Auction.

Treasurer N1AEH:

The current club balance is \$3419.00. The meeting raffle took in \$163.00.

Secretary KB1MU:

Membership total at present:

Courtesy	7
Family	13
Life	2
Regular (Renewed)	52
(Un-renewed)	54
Venture Crew	7

The HCRA Big-E day recruitment has been a great success. It was successful to the point that some volunteers may not be able to obtain tickets and parking passes. The persons responsible for this booth are attempting to keep free ticket to four per day. With 11 volunteers we are stretching this a little.

Program WB1DBY:

October: Marc, K1MZ speaking on contesting

November: Annual auction, no speaker required

December: Holiday Party, Food and Ham Jeopardy.

January John Ellsworth from the Historical Radio Museum

February Open

March Annual Show and Tell Meeting

April CTRI Contest Group

May OPEN

June Tailgate Party

Speakers are needed for the meetings in February, and May. Anyone who has suggestions, can contact Larry WB1DBY at <wb1dby@comcast.net>.

Membership K1II:

The next session of Technician Classes will start on Tuesday Feb 15. There will be eight class sessions plus one session for testing. The room is reserved for 12 evenings as it is expected that there will be some weather canceled classes

ZeroBeat KX1X:

Cutoff date for ZeroBeat submission's for the October edition is Sept 22. The newsletter is what the members make it. If you have any articles you would like to see presented, let John Kx1x know. Dave KB1MU will be sending some reprints of events from HCRA's past. These will come from the ZeroBeat Archives. (Any requests?)

Technical N1JIO:

John will restart the Tech Corner program; the first session will cover IRLP operation. Many subjects were suggested, but would like input from general membership.

At Large KB1JVF:

Jim will generate a packet to be used for distribution at VE sessions. This packet will include a HCRA flyer, welcoming letter from the HCRA President, and a membership application. (Note, all newly licensed amateurs are eligible for a free one-year subscription to the Electronic ZeroBeat.)

Venture Crew:

Not present.

Old Business:

Jim KK1W will follow up with the process of obtaining Jim Allen's call as a club call. The replacement for the failed disk drive has been received, and will be used as a raffle prize in the near future.

The replacement failed disk drive will be sold at the Nov HCRA auction.

New Business:

Marty W1MJB and his wife Judy will be chairing the arrangements for the December holiday party.

Respectfully submitted Dave Isham KB1MU

Field Day Now & Then

Field Day 1959

FIELD DAY RESULTS

Band	Contacts	Points
80 cw	31	93
75 phone	8	24
40 cw	334	1002
40 phone	11	33
20 cw	19	57
20 phone	128	384
15 cw	13	78
15 phone	32	192
10 phone	29	174
6 phone	98	882
2 phone	80	- 720
	<hr/> 783	<hr/> 3639

The score has been sent to the ARRL. It was a real fine Field Day.

There are various misplaced articles which we would like to get back to the correct ham shack. We have on hand one red and black water-roof carrying case and know the location of various tools and solder, etc. We are looking for one coax relay and other various tools. If you are missing something or have anything that you brought home by mistake please contact Eunice, W1UKR, St 3-6974. We also have on hand one boy Scout mess kit from Field Day, 1958.

Field Day 2004

A bit belated, but Peter K111 and I are happy to report that because of the efforts and cooperation of many people, once again H.C.R.A. was able to host another remarkable Field Day which by all reports and indicators was indeed a success.

The weather, atrocious Friday evening, cleared mid morning Saturday; and remained seasonal the remainder of the weekend.

Propagation was far better than Expected considering the sunspot activity present for most of this summer. Bottom line we caught a break, the coronal mass ejections (CME's) were minimal just prior to the weekend and none were fully geo-effective (earth facing). The end result was no major geomagnetic storming. So, we had little if any solar wind borne atmospherics. The disturbances during the weekend were just the normal summertime QRN. Fairly stable bands and the fine operating by the many club and guest operators gave us a respectable 7Alpha score-9,910 points – the

highest achieved by our club during the last few years when we have operated 7 Alpha.

The turnout was remarkable. Set up on Friday went well, we had a fine set up crew with enough people to have all of the AB/577 antenna masts erected with beams attached, ready to be raised to a height of fifty feet and rotated to radiate our signals South Westerly in near record time. The many trees that would be used to suspend this year's ensemble of wire antennas which were by the way, designed especially to work with the expected ionospheric conditions, were marked and antenna halyards launched over the tree canopies using a finely crafted air cannon. The air cannon uses 90 PSI of compressed air accumulated from a portable air compressor to put a special weighted tennis ball with high tensile strength bailing twine (the halyard) attached up and over the tree top from which the wire antennas were suspended. With the halyard up, the precut wire antennas went skyward with minimal effort and all that remained for Saturday morning was to set up the operating stations. By twilight, most of the heavy set up was completed and the predicted foul weather for Friday evening arrived with plenty of thunder, lightning and of course near torrential rain. The remainder of the evening was the traditional pizza and soda for supper and an early bedtime.

Saturday dawn saw little hope of anything but a soggy day but by mid-morning the weather cleared and, bolstered by newly arrived club members and guests, the HCRA managed to meet the official ARRL starting time with minutes to spare. The rest is history. We had a well-tuned 7 Alpha field day operation. Camaraderie, excellent cooperation and the added sustenance of five star meals did the trick.

This article purposely does not name all those who gave of their time and labor to ensure that Field Day 2004 was a success, simply because to omit one deserving name would be a great error. We thank all of you for your efforts and hope that you will all be there next year and that your enthusiasm will inspire other club members and potential guest to involve themselves in Field Day 2005.

Field Day 1989

This past June, the Hampden County Radio Association Field Day Team put in a superb effort for the yearly Field Day contest. We ran transmitter class 9A, which means that we had as many as 9 transmitters on the air *simultaneously!* The weather, operators, and bands held out, and we all had a great time. Here's a quick rundown of each operating position set up:

160 meters—W1KK: Drake TR5, longwire antenna, and solar charged batteries to obtain bonus points.

80 meters—N1QC: Yaesu FT-767, 320 foot zepp antenna.

40 meter CW—K1XM: Icom IC731, 2 element delta beam at 70 feet.

40 meter SSB—N1DPM: Icom IC765, 2 element delta beam at 70 feet.

20 meter CW—N01Z: Icom IC781, 3 element yagi at 70 feet.

20 meter SSB—KA1ZE: Icom IC781, 3 element yagi at 60 feet.

17 meters—W1KK: TR5, longwire.

15 meter CW—NC1B: Kenwood TS940S, 4 element yagi at 40 feet.

15 meter SSB—KA1KRJ: Kenwood TS440, 4 element yagi at 30 feet.

Next Month, the HCRA annual

AUCTION

Friday, November 5th

See Page 7 for details

HCRA

P.O. Box 562

Agawam, Massachusetts

01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

Hampden County Radio Assoc.

Monthly meeting

K1MZ on

Contesting

And other club business

Oct 1st

7:30 PM

also

Tech Corner

7:PM

