



# Zero Beat

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

OCTOBER 2006

## Guest Speaker:

### Chuck Wyrick—N1UC Of Ham Radio Outlet, Salem, NH

### Friday night at 7:30 pm October 6th, 2006

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#### Meeting Details:

Chuck is the manager of the Salem, NH branch of HRO. He will be speaking on new items of interest to amateur radio. We're hoping he brings some new radios too. This is guaranteed to be an interesting meeting.

Back in May of 2002 Chuck last visited the HCRA. For those of you that remember his visit, he told us stories



of ham radio, things he liked to do like building projects with his son who is also a ham. We were also tantalized with the latest desirable radios that made everyone want one for themselves.

Please join us for this exciting meeting. We hope to see you there!

#### 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.



## Changes in the HCRA Board

Eric—KB1JVI has moved onto the membership position. Eric fills a position that was recently vacated by John—KB1NKL. As you all know, membership is one of the most important positions on the board. Please welcome Eric into his new position! We all thank Eric for his dedicated work with Zero Beat in the past year!

With Eric now in membership, the

editor of Zero Beat became an open position. I have been thinking about rejoining the board for a while and Zero Beat Editor is a perfect fit for me.

There are a few areas that are missing from this ZB. I promise they will be back next month. I just could not find the room for them in the October issue. But as the new layout changes, the missing items

will be back. So don't get worried!

I am looking for articles and photographs on anything interesting. Please email me at: [wb1dby@comcast.net](mailto:wb1dby@comcast.net)

Thank you & 73,

Larry—WB1DBY



# HCRA Board Meeting - September 7, 2006

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

Members present: John N1JIO, John K11A, Jim KK1W, Greg N1AEH, Jim KB1JVF, Eric KB1JVI, George KC1V and Dave AA1YW.

## President John, K11A:

Dave, KB1MU, e-mailed to remind us that an invoice needs to be sent to HRO for ZB ad. KC1V will prepare and send invoice. Eric, KB1JVI, due to work and school commitments, needs to step down as ZB Editor, but volunteered to take over the open Membership position. Larry, WB1DBY, has volunteered to become ZB Editor. The change was approved unanimously.

## Vice President Dave, AA1YW:

Sign-up raffle and October meeting raffle prizes are lined up. AA1YW will give meeting info to Dave, KB1MU, for announcement on the Wednesday information net.

## Treasurer Greg, N1AEH:

Greg reported that the current club balance is \$3207.47, with no outstanding checks or expenses. The \$50 rebate on the 718 is still

unresolved.

## Secretary George, KC1V:

28 renewal and new membership applications have been received as of 9/6/06. There are currently 43 regular members renewed through 2007 and 85 regular members that have not renewed yet.

## Program Jim, KK1W:

Speaker for October meeting still needs to be confirmed.

## Zero Beat Editor Eric, KB1JVI:

Larry, WB1DBY, will take over as ZB Editor beginning with the October issue. The October deadline for articles is the 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Technical John, N1JIO:

Class dates are set and the information is on the HCRA Web site. Arrangements for the spring classes are being investigated.

## At Large Jim, KB1JVF:

Jim, KB1JVF, at Norm's request, will pickup the coffee duties beginning with the October meeting.

**Old Business:** None.

## New Business:

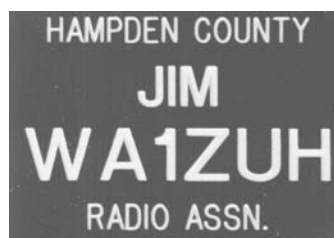
Membership drive for October meeting: ZB will be mailed, with a renewal reminder/application form to all members from last year that have not renewed.

2007 Field Day Chairman: Jim, KK1W, volunteered to be Field Day chairman for next year and was approved unanimously.

Board of Directors Meeting: The next board meeting will be held on October 12 at Rocky's.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Collins, KC1V, Secretary.

**Wear it Proudly!**  
HCRA Name Badges



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](mailto: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/>

# HCRA CLOTHING



Fleece Quarter Zip Pullover: 14 ounce Polyester (very soft) Fleece with non-pilling face. Heavy duty nylon zipper. Two side-seam pockets. 1" elastic cuffs and waistband. It comes in sizes S - 3XL. The price with call/name and club logo is \$27 (\$29 for 2XL or 3XL).



Fleece Vest: 100% polyester (very soft) Fleece. Full-zip front. Front zip hand-warmer pockets. Open bottom with drawcord hem. Embroidered Columbia logo on right chest. It comes in sizes S - 3XL. The price with call/name and club logo is \$31 (\$33 for 2XL or 3XL).

Size and type	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
Windbreaker	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$31.00	\$32.00
Short Sleeve Polo Shirt	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$21.00	\$22.00
Fleece Quarter Pull Over	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$29.00	\$29.00
Fleece Vest	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$33.00	\$33.00

Look good while wearing the newest club wear! Shirts, jackets and hats all customized with your name and call and the new HCRA club logo. You'll be the envy of others at hamfests, club events, emergency communication events and more!

If you are interested please send a check payable to **S & S Computer Embroidery** to:

Johnny Lenville – K11A, .98 Pinevale St , Indian Orchard, MA 01151

Please list the quantity of each item and the size ordering. Also, PRINT Your NAME and CALL neatly to prevent mistakes. Send your phone number & email so you can be contacted when ready.

A deposit of at least 50% must be made at time of order, with the remaining balance paid upon delivery.

## Could BIG finally Bury BPL?

### Public Service Emergency Communication Help Needed

Amateur Radio communications are needed for the Monroe Trail Races in Monroe, MA on Sunday October 8th. Amateurs will meet at Friendlys on the rotary at Exit 26 in Greenfield at 7 AM. We will leave around 7 :30 AM to go to the Town of Monroe. We will need to get into position starting at 9 AM. The race starts at 10 AM and will last till about 1 PM. Please bring extra batteries, warm clothes and dress in layers. External antennas might help. We will be using 146.520 for this event with KB2SAE standing by on 146.910 for emergency traffic. A nice lunch will be served for us as well as t-shirt provided. Contact Richard Kd1XP for details or go to [www.kd1xp.org](http://www.kd1xp.org)

The next meeting of the QCWA is October 21, 2006. The Guest Speaker is Walton Congdon, W1ZPB, speaking on Wind Power. The meetings are open to all QCWA Members, and non-members. Contact Pat Smith N1CET, telephone 413-566-3966 for reservations.

What is BIG you ask? BIG stands for Broadband in Gas. No this is not a joke. A technology has been developed by Nethercom of San-Diego to send lightning fast broadband and TV services thru natural gas pipelines. The same pipelines that deliver natural gas to heat your home.

BIG would be able to provide broadband to 62% of America's homes. BIG would deliver faster internet than either DSL or Cable is able to currently provide. This is done without the need for very expensive fiber optics or other cables to transfer the data. It would also be less expensive than current broadband fees.

Currently the cable and phone companies are battling it out for all their services. But soon a third provider could enter the scene offering far speedier service if you are running natural pipe-in gas.

Here's how it works:

1. A ultrawideband radio transceiver send the wireless signals thru the natural gas pipe. The signals would not interfere with gas delivers or present a risk of explosion.
2. Buried pipes are shielded from open air broadcast interference. Pipes can be metal or plastic but a stronger signal is needed for plastic pipes.
3. The signals travel thru the pipes at broadband speeds of up to 6000 megabits per second.
4. A transceiver takes signals from the pip. Decodes the broadband internet, TV and phone content and send them to the converter box in the home or business.

Federal rules limit the strength of ultrawideband signals. But this does not apply to underground pipes. So power levels can be boosted to provide homeowners with a 6 gigabit per second rate. This far exceeds the 6 meg per second rate that some of us enjoy and consider speedy!

So far it is estimated that build out costs would be about \$200 per household. This is one third of the current BPL build out of \$600 per household. Phone and cable networks cost about \$1000 per household.

Field trials are set to start next year in Atlanta, Chicago and San-Diego. In a few years, it could be coming to your home. Hopefully more companies will look into adopting it and passing that savings along to us consumers.

*The above article is summarized from "Gas-line broadband a pipe dream" in the September 11, 2006 USATODAY. Here is the link to the original article:*

*[http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techinnovations/2006-09-10-broadband-gas\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techinnovations/2006-09-10-broadband-gas_x.htm)*

*A google search of "broadband in gas" will bring up nearly 12 million results.*

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions  
Can Be Directed To:

## HCRA OFFICERS

### President

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### Treasurer

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### Secretary

George Collins, KC1V

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## HCRA DIRECTORS

### At Large

Jim Harrington, KB1JVF

(413) 862-3230 [jldhjr@verizon.net](mailto:jldhjr@verizon.net)

### Program

Jim Mullen, KK1W

(413) 245-3228 [jmullen@rockys.com](mailto:jmullen@rockys.com)

### Membership

Eric Richardson, KB1JVI

(413) 283-6351 [kb1jvi@arrl.net](mailto:kb1jvi@arrl.net)

### Zero Beat

Larry Krainson, WB1DBY

(413) 567-3505 [wb1dby@comcast.net](mailto:wb1dby@comcast.net)

### Technical

John Stark, N1JIO

(413) 747-8169 [n1jio@earthlink.net](mailto:n1jio@earthlink.net)

## STATION TRUSTEES

### WINY Trustee

Don Johnson, W1UPH

(413) 566-3560 [w1uph@arrl.net](mailto:w1uph@arrl.net)

### WB1Z Trustee

Jim Mullen, KK1W

(413) 245-3228 [jmullen@rockys.com](mailto:jmullen@rockys.com)

### IRLP Trustee

John Pise, Kx1x

(413) 532-7474 [kx1x@arrl.net](mailto:kx1x@arrl.net)

# Words from our President

HI EVERYONE!

WELL, OUR FIRST MEETING OF THE SEASON WENT WELL, WITH PRETTY GOOD ATTENDANCE TOO (HEAD COUNT WAS JUST ABOVE 60)! THIS MONTH'S MEETING SHOULD BE NO DIFFERENT. CHUCK WYRICK, N1UC, FROM HAM RADIO OUTLET IN NEW HAMPSHIRE WILL BE JOINING US. SO IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT NEW RIG YOU'VE HAD YOUR EYE ON, OR ABOUT THE LATEST IN RADIO TECHNOLOGY, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO ASK SOMEONE IN-THE-KNOW!

SPEAKING OF NEW RIGS. . DON'T FORGET TO RE-NEW YOUR HCRA MEMBERSHIP! BY DOING SO, YOU'LL AUTOMATICALLY BE ENTERED IN TO WIN A BRAND NEW YAESU FT-1802!

AND SPEAKING OF MEMBERSHIP. . WE HAVE A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE. ERIC RICHARDSON, KB1JVI HAS DECIDED TO SLIDE OVER TO FILL THE POSITION OF MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, AND LARRY KRAINSON, WB1DBY, HAS VOLUNTEERED TO RE-JOIN THE BOARD AS THE ZERO BEAT EDITOR.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING BOTH ERIC AND LARRY FOR RECOGNIZING OUR CLUB'S NEEDS, STEPPING UP AND TAKING ACTION!

THANKS GUYS!

ALSO, NOVEMBER IS COMING FAST! AND OF COURSE, NOVEMBER MEANS AUCTION TIME! SO DO YOURSELF (AND YOUR SPOUSE) A FAVOR AND START GOING THROUGH THOSE JUNK BOXES! IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO MAKE ROOM IN YOUR SHACK FOR MORE STUFF! THE ANNUAL HCRA AUCTION IS A GREAT WAY TO GET RID YOUR OLD, UNWANTED "STUFF" AND MAKE A FEW BUCKS! OR IF YOUR ONLY CONCERN MAKING ROOM, THE HCRA GLADLY ACCEPTS ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED OFF FOR CLUB DONATIONS!

SO START RUMMAGING BUT DON'T FORGET TO TAKE A BREAK AND JOIN US ON OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup> FOR THE NEXT HCRA MEETING!

SEE YOU ALL THEN AND 73!

-JOHNNY LENVILLE, KI1A

### Member Suggestions

Those of us on the HCRA Board of Directors have always advocated members making suggestions. As a result, we're implementing a new idea! Mike DeChristopher, K1KAA, came up with what we thought was a great idea; Highlighting club members shacks in Zero Beat! We're asking that anyone interested submit a couple of photos of your "operating position" and "antenna farm" along with a brief, detailed description.

Like Mike said "...When someone tells you what their running for equipment, it's hard to visualize it." It's always fun to see how someone else has their station set up! And I think many of our newer members could benefit from it as well! So if you would like to participate, snap a few pictures and email them to our new Zero Beat Editor.

But it shouldn't stop there... This is a Member Driven Club. We're here for you! If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions, please feel free to let us know! We're also inviting you folks to write articles for Zero Beat. Have you built something for your station lately? Document it and send it to us! Buy a new rig lately and want to write a review? Type it up and let us know! As long as it's Ham Radio / Club related, and limited to one page or so, go on and write!

# 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](mailto:wb1dby@comcast.net) and put the email subject as ham shacks or similar.

## K1KAA—Mike DeChristopher

Contesting is the name of the game. Two Kenwood TS440s linked via an SO2R controller, both interfaced with N1MMlogger. Bandpass filters are in-line with both radios and are controlled via a band decoder, which itself is driven by the logging program. The antenna switching is done via a manual switch. The microphone is a Heil BM-10 with the HC-4 element. The only VHF gear is a Kenwood TR7930 and a pyramid solid-state amplifier. Digital is not a big mode here, but the TNC's are a PK-232 and PK-64 by AEA. More technical information at <http://mdechristopher.googlepages.com>.

73'

*Mike DeChristopher, K1KAA*  
<http://mdechristopher.googlepages.com>



## **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](mailto: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!!!



**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

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

Annual Dues:	<b>\$15.00</b>
Donation: \$ _____	.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Processed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

# Sign-up Raffle

You could win a 50W,  
2 Meter mobile just  
by renewing!



Yaesu FT-1802

Simply join or renew  
**TONIGHT!**

# Last Chance !!!

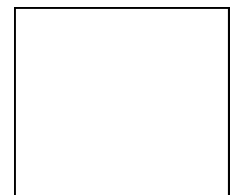
Rejoin HCRA and keep your copy of  
Zero Beat coming every month.

A handy application is printed on the  
back of this wrapper. Send it in, or bring  
it to the HCRA Meeting on  
October 6th for a chance to win a Yaesu  
FT-1802E mobile rig.

*Thanks for your support - Johnny, KI1A*

**Club Meeting October 6th .. Chuck Wyrick - NIUC from HRO !**

*Hampden County Radio Association  
P.O. Box 562  
Agawam, Massachusetts 01001*



PLEASE HAND CANCEL