

Zero Beat



Our 54th Year

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

October 1999

Air traffic control

Join Us on Friday, October 1st
Doors Open at 7:PM,
Meeting starts at 7:30

The October HCRA speaker will be Al Suchcicki. He is an air traffic controller (ATC) at Bedford-Hanscom (MA) airport tower. He was previously the tower chief at Westover.

In this months edition

From the President's Shack.....	Page 2
Field Trip to the Cape.....	Page 3
HCRA Contact Sheet	Page 3
DX Clips	Page 4
Hall of Fame Special Event Station	Page 5
The Great HCRA Auction	Page 6
HCRA Board Meeting Minutes	Page 7
Hurricane Lingo.....	Page 8
HCRA Application for membership	Page 9

From the President's Shack de W6IS

As most of you know the officers and directors work hard to make our monthly meetings interesting and informative. The club organizes events like the BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME (WB1HOF) special event station, Cape Cod bus trip to visit the Marconi wireless site and the French Cable Station Museum of Orleans as well as Field Day and club sponsored contests. We fully realize that not every club member has the time available to participate in every event, however we do ask you to support your club by at least attending the monthly meetings. Please remember its your club; be there to make suggestions, let your club officers know what direction you would like the HCRA to take. Let your voice be heard!

A couple of reminders:

Its time to renew your membership. It only takes a minute to fill out the renewal form and get it taken care of. The annual dues remain at ten dollars.

Its not too late to get one of the operating slots for the WB1HOF special event Saturday and Sunday October 2nd & 3rd. Contact Jim, wb1z, at 413-536-5182, or at the October 1st club meeting.

The November 5th club meeting will be the time of the HCRA annual auction. This is a good time to turn your old stuff into cash or get that great bargain you have been looking for. The auction raffle prize is an Icom IC-TBA Tri-Band HT plus free battery pack. There will only be two hundred donation tickets sold at five dollars each, which makes your chances of winning real good. Tickets will be available at the October club meeting or you can contact one of the club officers. By the way -- you need not be present to win. LETS ALL PARTICIPATE. TALK IT UP AND MAKE THIS AUCTION BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!

I'm looking forward to saying hello to all of you at the October meeting.

73 de Irv, W6IS

WB1 HOF Antenna Installation de W6IS

September 26th was a beautiful fall Sunday morning at the BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME. The sun was shining, as were the faces of Steve N1SR, Jim WB1Z, Tom N1MUV, Larry K1ILZ and Irv W6IS. On the roof top of the HOF building up went a twenty meter beam and a forty meter dipole. Thanks to all of us working in harmony it all went up rather quickly. Look for the WB1HOF SPECIAL EVENT STATION October 2nd, 10 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., and October 3rd, 10 A.M to 2:00 P.M. local time.

HCRA & MTARA Field Trip to the Cape de Larry, K1ILZ

At 7:00 am on Saturday morning, September 25th, 45 members of HCRA and MTARA Radio Clubs boarded a bus in the pouring rain for a trip to Cape Cod. We were on our way to visit the Marconi site in Wellfleet (where the first transatlantic wireless communications occurred) and the French Cable Company in Orleans (where the first overseas communication from the USA to France was done by using cable).

The sun came out after we arrived at the Cape to give us a beautiful day to be at the shore. We met Paul, N1FI and Cindy, K1ISS (who arranged the trip) in Wellfleet. Both sites proved to be interesting and educational. After viewing the Marconi site we traveled to Eastham for a seafood dinner (or hamburgers for those who don't care for fish). From there we went to Orleans to the French Cable Museum to view the museum, and where some of us did a little shopping in area stores.

At 4:00 P.M. we boarded the bus for the return trip home, stopping for a brief time for snacks, then arriving back in Springfield about 8:00 PM tired, full, and well informed. Thanks to Paul and Cindy for arranging a great day. We are all looking forward to another trip in the future.

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

President	Irv Slitzky, W6IS	(413) 565-5222	w6is1@juno.com
Vice-President	Walter Nero, WA1HHN	(860) 684-6650	walhhn@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH	(860) 668-5143	
Secretary	Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com

HCRA DIRECTORS

At Large	Dave Peletier, N1TQP	(413) 267-4818	
Program	Yorke Phillips, K1BXE	(413) 566-3010	ypphil@juno.com
Membership	Larry Smith, K1ILZ	(413) 566-3966	kilzncet@aol.com
Newsletter	John Pise, KX1X	(413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net
Technical	Kurt Jackson, W1OBQ		

STATION TRUSTEES

W1NY Trustee	Don Johnson, W1UPH	(413) 566-3560 (let it ring)	w1uph2@juno.com
W1HOF Trustee	Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com

SAFETY & EMERGENCY

Safety Engineering	Peter Russell, KE1DQ	Emergency Coordinator	Dave Isham, KB1MU
--------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	-------------------

Mark your Appointment Calendars for Monday and Tuesday Nets

Join NCS Tom, N1MUV
On Monday nights, 7:30PM local
for the

HCRA/W1NY 10m Net

28.375 +/- QRM

with 10m finally coming around
who knows what DX may check in to our
10m net!!! DX or not, you'll still be treated
to information and good conversation.

Join NCS John, KX1X
On Tuesday nights, 7:30PM local
For the

HCRA/W1NY 2m Net

147.105 (+600)

Its Back!!! Lets make it better than ever!
Join in for information and announcements.
Members and non-members are
invited to check in, even if just to say hello!!!



DX Clips

de

Jordy, W1JK

This month I will discuss propagation. There is a fairly widespread absence of knowledge on this subject in the overall amateur ranks. There are many sources for information on this vital subject. I recommend the extensive coverage in "the Radio Amateur's Handbook" & the monthly columns in QST & CQ magazines. Also, at 18 minutes after the hour WWV broadcasts solar & geomagnetic conditions updated every 3 hours. Remember - there is no body of knowledge that can do as much for your DXing success & efficiency as knowledge of propagation. You will learn when & where to operate to maximize your country total in the least time spent.

Many of you are aware that Annobon island has been QRV since Sept 14. There are supposedly 4 operators on this DXpedition, although I have only heard 2. I will give you a tip on "breaking" the pileup more quickly: They are listening-up but do not specify the range. Try calling them 30-35 KHZ up if you have no success up 5-20 KHZ. I worked them on several bands up 30+. Some of us do not like this big a spread because it becomes a "crapshoot" unless you take the time to tune across the spread to spot the stations worked & note their frequency as well as whether they appear to start low & tune up or vice-versa. Also, some of us like the thrill of working them the first day, but as a practical matter you are better - off waiting until the "big - guns" get them. As I have said in previous columns, they will be begging for QSO's the last few days of the DXpedition. The original schedule per their website indicates operation from Sept 14-Sept 29. They will be operating all bands CW & SSB + RTTY & have 4 Rigs as well as beams & dipoles. This is a great chance to get a rare one. As I write this I realize that you may not have **Zero Beat** in time to benefit from this information. Well, at least my suggestions may benefit a few of you.

LOOK FOR:

9X- Rwanda: Vlad is QRV as 9X/RE3A for several months. Op will be on 20,15 & 10. QSL to RW3AH.

Palestine-E4: Ayar, OZ6ACD plans to operate after 9-17. QSL via OZ1ACB.

Belize-V3: On October 7-12 5 operators plan to operate 80-10M most modes. QSL via various home calls.

Niue-ZK2: Manfred, DJ7RJ will be here Oct 7-14. QSL via bureau or direct to DJ7RJ.

See you next month.

de Jordy Koltz, W1JK, W1JK@MAP.COM

• MACHINE REBUILDING • INSTALLATION • REMOVAL
• CONTROL PANELS • START-UP • CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Used Machines **THE HHN** New Machines
ELECTRIC CO.

WALTER J. NERO
PRESIDENT
Tel. & FAX 860-684-6650

P.O. BOX 477
TOLLAND, CT 06084

*Please
Support
our
Sponsors*



Attention HCRA Members



Special Event Station at the Basketball Hall of Fame

The HCRA is sponsoring a Special Event Station at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield this October 2nd & 3rd. We will be operating several HF bands and 2m simplex under the call WB1HOF (World Basketball One Hall of Fame). Hours of operation are 10-4 on Saturday and 10-2 on Sunday.

Planned frequencies (+/- 20khz depending on QRM):

28.375, 14.275, 7.240, 146.490

The club is still looking for operators to man the station and people to help tear down. If you are interested in helping out and taking part in this great opportunity to promote the club and amateur radio, please contact myself, Jim Allen WB1Z, 413-536-5182 or Irv Slitzky W6IS, 413-565-5222.

Stations working WB1HOF can receive an official QSL card commemorating the contact by sending their QSL and a SASE to:

HCRA
P.O. Box 705
Agawam, MA 01101

de Jim Allen, WB1Z



PLEASE!!!

... _ _ _ ...

Support
Our
Sponsors
Let them know
That you saw their
Ad in
Zero Beat

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



Chuck Wyrick
Eastern Regional Mgr.
KM4NZ

224 N. Broadway
Salem, NH 03079
(603) 898-3750
1-800-444-0047

ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • DENVER, CO • OAKLAND, CA
PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR • SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA
SUNNYVALE, CA • VAN NUYS, CA • WOODBRIDGE, VA

Fantastic Raffle Prize
ICOM IC-T8A
Tri-Band HT
Plus free battery pack

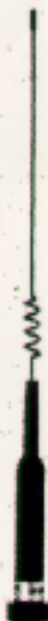


AUCTION

November 5th !!!

Turn your old 'stuff' into cash!

- *Set-up at 6:30 PM*
- *Win a Tri-band HT !*
- *Club meeting at 7:15 PM*
- *Coffee & Donuts!*
- *Auction starts at 7:30 PM*
- *Lots of bargains!*



Contact Irv, W6IS, for further details - 413-565-5222 or w6is1@juno.com



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 159.
Talk-in on the 147.105 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!

Minutes of the Hampden County Radio Association

Board of Directors Meeting September 9, 1999

Meeting called to order by President W61S, Irv Slitzky at 7:00 p.m. Members present were President, Program Director, Zero Beat Editor, Membership Chairman, Treasurer, Station Trustee.

Not present Vice-President, Secretary, Technical Director, At-Large

Treasurer's Report: 25 members have renewed dues and there were \$50 in donations. \$11 was netted out from the meeting raffle.

Membership: Larry K1L LZ has sent out 50 Zero Beats to prospective members. So far one has responded and joined club. Larry is looking for input on ways to attract new members. Suggested a personal letter from the President as part of a recruitment package and doing a more thorough job on qualifying prospects. Also will be contacting a company to work the approved club logo into a format which we will use on club stationery, etc. KX1X, John and WB1Z, Jim, will also be investigating the same.

Zero Beat: Deadline for submission for October issue will be September 23. List of donors, auction announcement, and SES information will also be included as well as membership renewal form. Those members who have not renewed by the November club meeting will be dropped from the Zero Beat mailing list. Minutes of meeting and financial report will also be included as a regular feature of ZB.

Program: October club meeting is October 1 and guest speaker will be Al Suchecki an air traffic controller who will give a talk on air traffic control.

Old Business: Plans are being finalized for the Special Event Station at the Basketball Hall of Fame in October. A recent visit to the site has resolved the antenna issues and most of the equipment necessary has been acquired.

The 2 meter HCRA net has been re-activated after the summer hiatus, as before, held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday night on the W1OBQ 147.105 repeater with KX1X as NCS.

New Business: Briefly discussed were the upcoming auction and raffle at the November meeting and also the Holiday Potluck Dinner in December.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jim Allen WB1Z, for Jim Mullen WA1ZUH, Secretary

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) October 16th and 17th, 1999

Each third weekend of October, Scouts and Hams around the world get together to participate in the Jamboree on the Air, JOTA. Aside from the obvious exposure to Amateur Radio that the scouts get, it is also an opportunity for them to share experiences and interests with other scouts in other countries.

Again this year, there will be a JOTA station at the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation in Woronoco, MA. The Pioneer Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America will be sponsoring a District Camporee during the same weekend at the Camp, so the JOTA station is assured a good amount of Scouts will come to visit and see how our hobby works.

We are inviting Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Daisies, Brownies, and Girl Scouts to also come up and share the experience with us. If you know of any Scouts that would like to participate in our JOTA event, please have an adult leader contact John Pise, KX1X (kx1x@arrl.net) or Biff Simpson, AA1DI (biff@map.com) to get more details.

We could also use operators to share their expertise and time with the Scouts. Please contact KX1X or AA1DI as outlined above. If you can't join us at our JOTA event, please share some time on the air with scouts from around the world, 0000Z 10/16/99 to 2400Z 10/17/99.



HURRICANE LINGO

BY

Eric Tuller *N1QKO*

With hurricane activity fresh in our minds, here are some terms used by the weather service.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION...a tropical system in which the maximum sustained surface wind is 33 knots (38 mph) or less.

TROPICAL STORM...a tropical system in which the maximum sustained surface wind ranges from 34 to 63 knots (39 to 73 mph).

HURRICANE...a tropical system in which the maximum sustained surface wind is 64 knots (74 mph) or greater.

HURRICANE EYE...the relatively calm area in the center of the storm. In this area... winds are light and the sky often is only partly covered by clouds.

STORM SURGE...an abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm. The height of the storm surge is the difference between the observed level of the sea surface and the astronomical tide that would have occurred in the absence of the storm.

TROPICAL STORM WATCH...an announcement that a tropical storm or tropical storm conditions pose a threat to coastal areas generally within 36 hours.

TROPICAL STORM WARNING...a warning that a tropical storm or tropical storm conditions... including sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph... will affect a specified coastal area within 24 hours or less.

SAFFIR/SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE...a scale ranging from one to five based on intensity of the hurricane. This can be used to give an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along the coast from a hurricane.

HURRICANE WATCH...an announcement for specific areas that a hurricane or hurricane conditions pose a possible threat to coastal areas generally within 36 hours.

HURRICANE WARNING...a warning that hurricane conditions... including sustained winds of 74 mph or greater associated with a hurricane are expected in a specified coastal area within 24 hours or less.

INLAND HIGH WIND WATCH FOR HURRICANE FORCE WINDS...this type of watch will be issued for inland communities when the potential exists for hurricane force winds to occur within the next 24 hours associated with the passage of a hurricane.

INLAND HIGH WIND WARNING FOR HURRICANE FORCE WINDS...this warning will be issued for inland communities when hurricane force winds associated with the passage of a hurricane are expected during the next 12 hours.

HURRICANE LOCAL STATEMENT...a public release prepared by your local national weather service office in or near the threatened area giving specific details on weather conditions... evacuation decisions made by local officials... and other precautions necessary to protect life and property.

Thanks for all the help this summer. Eric N1QKO

Membership Drive 1999

We would like to increase our membership 10% this year.

As an incentive to bring in more members,

For each prospective NEW member that you bring as a guest
to an HCRA meeting, you will receive

5 free tickets for that night's door prize drawing.

If the guest joins, he/she will also receive 5 free tickets.

The next meeting of the
Hampden County Radio Association
Will be on Friday

October 1st, 1999

At 7:30 p.m. at the
Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Doors open at 7:00 PM

Hope to see you there!

*In case of inclement weather, tune to TV Channels 22 or 40, or on the
146.94 and 147.105 repeaters.*

Meeting cancellation information will be given out by 6:00 PM.

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts
01001