

HCRA Zero beat Sept. 2005

September, 2005



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



This Month's Meeting

As of publication time, the speaker at this month's meeting is unknown.



Welcome to the new Zero Beat!

As the new Editor, I would like to welcome you to Zero Beat! My name is Eric Richardson, and I have been with the club for 2 years. I got my ticket in 2003, with the technician class, and have been wanting to contribute to the club other than at Field Day. I would like to thank John Pise, KX1X, for all his hard work and determination. I hope you enjoy the new layout of Zero Beat. I am open to any contributions of articles. Enclosed in this month's edition, you will find an application for this year.

73's

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President's Corner

Our next meeting is September 9th.

HHCRA's first meeting of the new season will be September 9th, the **SECOND** Friday of the month. This change was made because it was felt many people would have other activities going on over the Labor Day weekend. I hope you got the word from the web site - we may have been a little behind in getting a notice out to the members about the change. If you missed it our apologies.

Usually the September meeting is a time to get back together after a few months, share our summer's accomplishments in amateur radio and start talking about the season ahead. I imagine this will happen on Friday, but I'm sure the talk will quickly swing to the terrible devastation wrought by Mother Nature along the Gulf Coast. Hurricane Katrina has done more damage to life and property than has been seen in many a year. Through all this amateur radio has shown once again it is the method of communication when all else fails. With landline and cellular systems either destroyed or overloaded and millions without power hams are still getting the messages through. Let's hope the worst is now over and the need for our emergency communication has come to an end by the time you read this column. Remember to relate the role amateurs played in this to your local officials when the opportunity arises - ham radio is more than a hobby, it is a critical method of communication when the need arises.

Now on to happier subjects. How was your summer? Even though the sunspot cycle is still heading downward there were many good openings on the bands over the last few months. I hope you had an opportunity to take advantage of them, whether they be long skip or sporadic E on ten and six meters. Isn't it so cool, no matter how bad the propagation is predicted to be the number of times you can easily turn your rig on and talk around the world?

As I write this the subject/speaker for the September meeting is still open. Our featured speaker had to change his date for personal reasons. John is working hard to line up a speaker on short notice - but that's not an easy thing to do. I do know that even if we don't get a speaker we will have a great meeting. There are many subjects to discuss and review since we last got together. The elections and our new board members, Field Day, the W1NY/A10 Special Event Station and our upcoming events. More than enough to keep us busy wouldn't you say?



Not only will there be an excellent meeting as always, but a superb raffle prize too. Show up on Friday and for as little as a \$1.00 donation (or six for \$5.00) you could be the winner of a Yaesu VX2R dual band HT. Yes, that's the grand prize for the evening raffle. Wouldn't you like to be the lucky winner? Don't forget to bring a friend, everyone is always welcome at an HCRA meeting.

Field Day - 2005

What can we do better next year?

HCRA had another great Field Day again this year. Over 50 people either contributed or stopped by to lend a hand. The stations were busy, we had a great information booth and a superb meal as always. The GOTA station again was a busy place, almost 400 contacts were made by new/inexperienced hams. What a way to get your feet wet (or get back in the game) for these lucky folks.

That being said it pains me to see some of our club members spin off and hold their own Field Days. Obviously HCRA has failed in it's goal to provide a platform that satisfies all our members. I would like to hear suggestions from everyone as to how we can rectify this for Field Day 2006. It's a fun event that should allow **ALL** our members to participate.

FCC Proposes Sweeping Changes

Omnibus petition addresses a lot, leaves some things untouched.

Have you been waiting for the code requirement to be dropped so you can venture into HF? The FCC has taken a large step toward just that with their latest NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rule Making). Among other changes your government has decided that knowledge of Morse Code (CW) should not be a requirement for HF operation below 30 MHz.

It's been over a two years since the IARU decided to drop the requirement that CW proficiency be demonstrated for HF access below 30MHz. Instead it's now up to individual governments to decide if, if not, or how that country's rules should be changed because of this decision.

Have an opinion? A reprint of the latest bulletin from ARRL is copied below. There's still time to comment if you so desire.

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB021

ARLB021 Comment deadlines set in FCC "Morse code" proceeding

ZCZC AG21

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 21 ARLB021

>From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT August 31, 2005

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB021

ARLB021 Comment deadlines set in FCC "Morse code" proceeding

The deadline to submit comments on the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, released July 19, is October 31. Reply comments are due November 14. The NPRM&O proposes to do away with the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all license classes. The FCC turned away several other petition requests, however, including proposals to create a new entry-level license class.

Comment deadlines are established by the NPRM&O's publication in the Federal Register, which occurred August 31.

To file on-line comments on the FCC NPRM&O in WT Docket 05-235 or to view others' comments in the proceeding, visit the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Interested parties also may submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal, <http://www.regulations.gov>.

People with disabilities may contact the FCC to request reasonable accommodations (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc) by e-mail, FCC504@fcc.gov, or telephone 202-418-0530; TTY 202-418-0432.

For additional information, contact William T. Cross, William.Cross@fcc.gov, in the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 202-418-0680; TTY 202-418-7233.

Alternative formats are available for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), via e-mail request, FCC504@fcc.gov, or by calling the Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau: 202-418-0530; TTY 202-418-0432.

An FCC Report and Order in this proceeding is not likely until late 2005 or early 2006. NNNN /EX

This is an important facet to the hobby for many hams. Please take time to review the NPRM and make appropriate comments. It's your chance to participate in the rule making process.

Remember, it's time to renew your membership!

See you at the meeting!

'73... Jim, KK1W

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Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

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Show the world you belong to the oldest club in the Pioneer Valley.

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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 John, Kx1x, (413) 532-7474
kx1x@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

OUR
SUPPORTERS
PLEASE

W1NY/A10 Special Event Station Recap

Sent in by Jim, KB1JVF



Sunday Crew Pic. Dave KB1MU,
Les K1DNX Juergen Jim KB1JVF
Kathy Harrington Earl KD1UU

It seems like a million years ago when I talked Bill Amanti the owner of Advance Mfg. I work there. We make parts for, modify parts and rebuild units for aircraft, power plants, tanks (Abrams), personnel carriers, and submarines. He knew the Air Guard Commander and gave me the number's I needed to get started. Unfortunately for me the Air Guard Commander was just replaced but the replacement was able to point me to Master Sergeant Cooper. He assigned Dan O'Brien as intermediary. For the few days I had to convince Master Sergeant. Cooper that I needed answers to meet magazine deadlines months before the July date that the first meetings were to be held to discuss the air show. With Dan's help I got confirmation of the Information table and the Special Event Station.

I learned that putting the Event on the web and in magazines was an event in itself. I filled out forms, sent letters, and the e-mails. Then here came the "you entered your information in the wrong location". Back to the site and fill out a new form. The nicest people were the ARRL who got the information and allowed more room to publish all the frequencies we were to use.

With that being done, I next contacted the ANG a week or so before the air show. Good thing too, as I learned, the different areas in the show were given to different ANG personnel. Our project crossed many lines. Apparently due to the many areas of influence our particular event spanned, our association needed more work than most to get situated. Our next challenge was to be cleared by Communications. We were assigned Master Sergeant Fredrick Fopiano. He jumped hoops for us as we found a complex maze of spheres of influence. In years past the MARS group had put their antennas on the roof of the hanger. The officer in charge of the hanger roof was not able to allow this for: 1) the condition of the roof, and 2) the current state of the world. This then put us out on the lawn, and the gazebo, two more spheres of influence. The gazebo was off limits to us according to the officer in charge. We were to have set up in the hanger on the north side. This was found to be a problem due to having to string coaxial cable across the hanger. Thanks to Dave Cain for the work at getting hundreds of feet of coax to do this. We were moved to the south side where a Sergeant who knew the building informed us that the windows at the top of the hanger were replaced a few years ago and no longer open. Now the cables needed to be rerouted under the hanger door along the hanger and over a walkway to reach the lawn. This is the way it was on Thursday. I returned on Friday to find that the gazebo was now clear and the site of our Special Event Station, and the MARS group. The Information Table was still up in the air. I arrived on Saturday to setup and we were given a spot dead center of the hanger door, the perfect site!



On Saturday we set up and all was well enough for me to take a walk to see the air show. I made the C-17 at the far end, when I received a cell call saying there was a problem. I got back to find the wind had picked up and blown over the antenna 3 times. Master Sergeant Fopiano was on the scene. I then checked the hanger and the information table paperwork had almost reached the rear door. I felt for safety that we get the antenna off the ground. Master Sergeant Fopiano procured a mast with guy wires to stop the wind. First Sergeant David White had it erected with help in 15 minutes or less. I then rebuilt the Inf. Table. The rain on Sunday never stopped. The Thunderbirds canceled and the show ended with a pitter-patter. The above ANG personnel stopped by numerous times during the day to see all was well and that the HCRA crew was in good spirits. Despite the weather everyone said they would do it again and the rain may have added to the comradely.

The actual contacts for two, nine hour days was 14. Not a record, but I feel it was a success in the learning and the groups ability to come together, besides Jacob got to see his first air show.

Thanks to Larry WB1DBY for operating, setting up, (more than once) and the use of the equipment. Thanks to John Linville KB1LTC for the loan of equipment, surviving the Hurricane, and general support. Mark W1XX for showing up at the right time, right after the wind, to help any way he could. Thanks also to EJ KB1LNU for the support and patience he showed with so little sleep.

Special thanks also go out to John, Kx1x, Jim Mullen KK1W, Steve N1SR, Eric Tuller N1QKO, George KC1V; and the late Marty, W1MJB who's advice and e-mails have been missed.

Dr. DX
KB1FWN

Summer is drawing to a close, and while you “summer people” are preparing to hibernate, contest season is starting up. Okay, maybe you aren’t a contester. As long as you like DX, and show me a ham that doesn’t, you can reap the benefits of contest season all the same. In fact, hunting for DX in the summer is a lot like hunting for crocodiles in Vermont. Hunting for DX in the winter is like hitting a deer: they just freeze in your headlights.

If you want the best DX to freeze in your headlights, you’ve come to the right place, and you have the right time of year. Fall is great because the big DX’pedition stations are having their last-minute tower parties and trying out the new toys before the battles begin. Don’t think they’re just there to contest; there are a few expeditions out there now just looking for pileups. Here they are:

Start	End	Entity	Call	QSL	Information
Sept 01	Sept 13	Panama	HP1	WN6K	By WN6K W6NOW as HP1/WN6K; 160-10m, focus on WARC; CW; QRV for AA Contest
Sept 01	Sept 22	Christmas Island	VK9XMO	VK7MO Direct	By VK2CZ; digital 2m EME (no HF)
Sept 09	Sept 13	Bermuda	VP9	WA4PGM Direct	By WA4PGM as VP9/WA4PGM; 160-6m; CW SSB; QRV for WAE SSB, ARRL VHF, NA Sprint CW; QSL: Kyle Chavis POB 127 Farmville, VA 23901 USA
Sept 17	Sept 23	Lichtenstein	HB0	Home Call	By ON7TQ ON6UQ as HB0/homecall; 160-10m, focus on 160 80m; SSB CW RTTY; QSL OK via ON Buro or direct
Sept 23	Oct 08	Kure Atoll	K7C	N4XP	By KK6EK NI6T AD6E N6MZ N0AX N7CQQ W6KK DJ9ZB I8NHJ K6SRZ K6DZL WA1S; all bands and modes; begin/end dates tentative
Sept 28	Oct 15	Eastern Kiribati	T32	Home Call Direct	By IT9YRE I1SNW IT9EJW as T32S T32SNW T32EJW; SSB CW; Target islands: Flint, Vostok, Caroline

For those of you who need more Europeans, don’t worry, the WAE (Worked All Europe) DX Contest will be September 10-11 this year. For more information, visit <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcw.htm>. It is a contest where you can get a chance to work the smaller countries you probably wouldn’t otherwise hear.

To counter my previous comment about DX-to-summer as crocodiles-to-Vermont, I did hear of a small P5 expedition earlier this month. Dave, KA2HTV, was planning to be on the air as late as August 23. Too late for this issue, but congratulations to anyone who worked him. Korea is definitely a rare one.

73’ es Gud DX de KB1FWN

Board of Directors Minutes

HCRA Board Meeting August 18, 2005

Held at the Pizza Shop East Longmeadow MA.

Members present: Jim KK1W, Steve N1SR, Dave KB1MU, John N1JIO, Jim KB1JVF, Eric KB1JVI, and Irv W6IS.

Field Day:

The meeting started with a discussion of Field Day Likes and dislikes. The board seemed to agree that Field Day should be a club-wide event. Groups who desire to operate specific operations, such as solar, etc. should be encouraged to do so as part of the club operation. Field day operations should be FUN. Some members feel that the fun part has been forgotten.

September Meeting:

At this time a speaker for the September meeting has not been arranged. The planned speaker had to withdraw due to medical reasons.

Special Event Station:

The Westfield Airshow Special event station is proceeding well. All needed equipment has been obtained. Thanks to Larry WB1DBY for most of the equipment. The antenna installation will be simple.

The antenna will likely be a dipole for 40 and 20 meters. The air show will not allow installation of any equipment before 8:00 AM on Sat, and all must be removed by 5:00 PM on Sun.

Tech Corner:

The September Tech Corner will be aimed at the newer hams amongst us. The title is "Getting to know your HT".

Big-E:

Since there appears to be now formal operation at the Big-E this year, the Board decided not to participate as a club. Should any formal operation occur, club members are free to participate as individuals?

License classes:

The HCRA will sponsor two license classes this year. The first session will be in the fall (Sept/Oct) and held at Cooley Dickenson Hospital in Northampton. The second session will be during Feb/Mar and held in Longmeadow.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Isham KB1MU Secretary.

**Here are the criteria that we will be looking for this summer
when a SKYWARN net is activated.**

A GUIDE FOR REPORTING SEVERE WEATHER

Tornadoes / funnel clouds (be wary of look a likes)

Wall clouds, especially if they are rotating

Any hail (be specific to size)

DO NOT USE "MARBLE SIZE" TO DESCRIBE SIZE

Winds (40 mph or greater, estimated or recorded)

Damaging gusts (50mph or greater)

Trees and power lines down. Large limbs down

Structural damage to buildings, windows broken

Rainfall:

1 inch or greater in 1 hour

2 inches or greater storm total

Flash flooding:

Streams / rivers -also when nearing bank full

Coastal/ Street

PROCEDURES for calling into local net

Identify yourself with your call and name

Be BRIEF in your observation, Include:

WHAT was observed

WHEN it was observed

WHERE it was observed

Include direction & distance from a known location

Some things to remember during a net:

When calling from your town. Please specify if in Ma. or Ct.

Don't relay reports that you here on repeaters in other coverage areas

Don't relay information from the WEATHER CHANNEL

Don't relay information you here on a scanner

WE WANT YOUR OBSERVATIONS!

After the storm has passed your location. DO NOT tell net control the storm has passed. Please stay off the air so that reports east of you can be taken. We don't need a summary of what has already happened. Please remember your safety during severe weather!

Thank you,

Eric Tuller, N1QKO

ASST. SKYWARN COORDINATOR for W.MA.



On the Internet

<http://www.hcra.org>

Updated often to bring you timely Amateur news and info

Next Meeting:

Friday, September 9th, 2005

Have a great Summer!!!

IRLP Node #7270

146.46 Mhz -- PL 114.8

A free service of HCRA

See www.hcra.org

Get Your Zero Beat Electronically each month

HCRA members can receive their monthly club newsletter in any or all of three ways!

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.

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.

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 Eric, KB1JVI, Steve, N1SR, 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	
	(right after SWAP net)	N1RLX Memorial Simplex Net	Starts on 146.94, then moves to a simplex frequency
Thursdays	21:00	Northern CT Weather Net	146.79(-) PL 82.5 (except 2 nd week, on 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

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!!!

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)

The next ham radio testing session will be on Monday, October 17th. The new address is

*117 North Plain Road
Sunderland, MA*

*ALL test elements given. Contact Richard,
KD1XP at 665-2211 for details*

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

Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater

www.mtara.org

Info Net, Wednesdays at 7:30 PM local
146.94 (-) or 147.000 (+) with Joe, NA1X, NCO

Meetings on the

3rd Friday of the Month, 7:30

Red Cross Building, Cottage St., Spfld

Next Meeting, unknown as of press time

**Meetings are held at the
Red Cross Building**



**QCWA Pioneer
Chapter #183**

**Schedule of
Events**

Meeting October 8th - 11:30AM

CJ's Restaurant, Rte. 20, Palmer, MA

Speaker: Mr. Guy McLain, Director of the CT Valley
Historical Museum

Subject: History of Transportation in New England

Guests welcome.

Contact: Pat Smith, N1CET (413) 566-3966

Meeting January 21st, 2006 -- 11:30AM

CJ's Restaurant, Rte. 20, Palmer, MA

***The Hampden County Radio
Association's next meeting
FRIDAY, Sept. 9th.***

**Doors open at 7 p.m., Meeting
begins at 7:30**

Feeding Hills Congregational Church,
Feeding Hills, MA

In case of inclement weather, check:
www.hcra.org or the 146.94 repeater.
Meeting cancellation information will be given out by

Items for sale

By Larry - WB1DBY

1. Rig Blaster Nomic - \$35.00 – barely has 10 hours of use. Excellent Condition.
2. MFJ – 1112 DC Power Distribution Panel - \$20.00 – mint condition, never used.
3. Diamond K9000TM Motor Drive Mount – Brand New – never used, wrong mount for my car - \$99.00

Contact: Larry – WB1DBY at 413-348-3289 or
wb1dby@comcast.net for more info.

If you would like to see your notice here, please e-mail the editor, Eric, KB1JVI at kb1jvi@arrl.net

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts 01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL



Www.hcra.org

Special Service Events

We are looking for additional emergency communication help for the Mt. Holyoke Regatta coming up September 18th. This is a Saturday event. Anyone interested, please contact Larry - WB1DBY at wb1dby@comcast.net or 413-348-3289 or Carol - W1LGU at w1lgu@arrl.net or 413-527-7165.

We will have hams on shore and some in boats with regatta authorities. We currently have 4 solid and 2 tentative hams to help. We could definitely use at least 3 more volunteers. No experience is necessary. This is a good place to get your feet wet (!) with ham radio volunteer communications. Come join the fun, you don't know what you are missing!

You will need a HT and spare battery, pen, maybe a pad/paper, high performance HT antenna (other than what came with the HT usually makes a huge difference). Also having a sun hat, rain coat, bug spray, sunscreen, bottle of water, sweatshirt, binoculars, etc. never hurts as the weather could be anything. But we're hoping that since the regatta is a month earlier than usual, the wx will be nice (hopefully).