

Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association

September 2013

Welcome back, my friends, to the fun that never ends!

Hi, everyone, and welcome to a new season of fun with your friends at HCRA. I know it has been awhile since our last meeting in June but we haven't stopped working on ideas to make our 2013/2014 season better than ever!

We ended last season with an outstanding Field Day at our new location at School St. Park in Agawam, Mass. I hope you had a chance to attend, help out or operate. Since then hopefully you put a little time aside, between vacations and "ToDo" lists to spend time getting your station ready for winter. Regardless of the purported extra 3db of gain when you erect an antenna in winter it really is MUCH easier in the summer months! Cycle 24 is still plodding along and we shouldn't see much difference over the next six months. There's still time to do some antenna maintenance or put up a new one before the snow flies. Take some time to rearrange the shack, maybe plan a new accessory purchase and if you haven't tried contesting, why not try the ARRL 10 Meter contest in December. We always enter as a club, it's fun and not very 'hard core'. You never know what DX may be heard coming out of your radio until you try the 10 meter contest.

So what does HCRA have planned for the new season? Matt is working hard to bring outstanding speakers to our meetings. We're starting out with Tom/K1KI, our ARRL New England director in September, followed by John/



N1OLO from Hamsource in October and rounding out 2013 we will feature our very own Dan/KB1VWQ and Dave/N1MFL with a presentation about Parks on the Air (POTA) in November. We wrap up 2013 with our annual joint HCRA/MTARA Holiday Party at the Steaming Tender on December 9th. We have plans in place for 2014 as well with Fred/K1VR visiting us in January and of course our annual March Show & Tell and June's Field Day planning meeting.

In addition to fun and informative meetings we're still hoping to field a few foxhunts in September and October this year (thanks Rich/N1KXR and Larry/WB1DBY) and will be holding Tech, General and Extra classes in January (thanks John/Kx1x). Our new Technical Director Bob/K1YO will be holding pre-meeting "Tech Corners" and if all goes well Bruce/KB1TLX will continue to keep us fed with coffee and donuts at the meetings.

We can do all this because YOU, our members, remain active and excited about ham radio. As a club we endeavor to provide a platform and opportunity to our members to explore new facets of ham radio and look forward to sharing your successes. Speaking of sharing successes more than half of our members are actively participating in our Facebook page. It's a great way to share your adventures and mishaps, have some DX 'throwdowns' and more. If you're on Facebook but haven't joined the HCRA page you're missing out on some good stuff.

See you at September's meeting,
Jim/KK1W

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September's Meeting

(Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW) Our next club meeting is Friday, September 6th. Tom Frenaye - KK1I, ARRL's New England Division Director, will be speaking about the League's plans for their 100th anniversary celebration. We are fortunate to live so close to the epicenter of where it all started. Come find out what the good folks down in Newington, CT have in store for us! Eyeball QSOs start at 7:00pm and meeting starts at 7:30. Public Welcome! See page 3 for location.

FROM THE SHACK

Next Meeting September 6th

Special Guest Speaker Tom Frenaye/K1KI It has been a few years since Tom, our New England ARRL Director, has visited our club. Tom will be on hand to reveal the exciting events wrapped around the ARRL's 100th Anniversary celebration next year. Wait until you hear about what's planned – a chance of a lifetime for anyone that is excited about amateur radio.

Besides the Anniversary festivities I'm sure K1KI will bring us up to date on regulatory matters with the FCC and perhaps, if we ask nicely, a short report about WRTC 2103 (the warm-up event for 2014). See you there!

Bruce/KB1TLX will be bringing (and monitoring) coffee and donuts for this meeting. Please respect the 'suggested donation' so he can continue to serve you at future meetings.

Announcing the new *250* Raffle

A nice mobile transceiver could be yours! The new *250* prize is a [Yaesu FT-857D](#), mobile/base, 100W, HF to 440 transceiver. This great prize, including a separation kit, could be yours for as little as a \$10 donation. Read all about this exciting prize in a separate article here in June's Zero Beat. Tickets are selling at a rapid clip – get yours before they're all gone. See Rich/N1KXR at the back of the hall and don't forget to renew your membership while you're back there!

What time is it?

It's RENEWAL Time! Once again it is time to renew your HCRA membership for another year. A one year ticket is still only \$15, a bargain by any stretch of the imagination. Included in this month's Zero Beat (and also available on our web site) is a handy application. Please fill it out and bring it to Friday's meeting. See Rich and Dave at the back of the hall and they will get you settled in for another fun year!

Don't want to stand in the long renewal line? No problem, we've got you covered there too. Starting this season you can renew on-line with a few simple clicks of your mouse. Visit our easy to use [renewal page](#) and in a few moments you'll be good for another year. Secure payment is through PayPal. Not a PayPal member? No problem, you can use your credit card just like any other on-line purchase. No lines, no waiting, more time to work DX. What's not to like?

It is important to note our on-line renewal is in addition to, not a replacement for any of the old methods of renewing. You can still renew by mail or more importantly in person at the September meeting – we always like to see you at a meeting ☺



Jim operating NE1SJ on Peak Mountain, Connecticut

HCRA purchases four WRTC stations!

Details and Purchase Agreements are ready. The details we promised to reveal are here! Find out all about the purchase, how it benefits our members and HCRA and most importantly "what's for sale" in an article elsewhere in this issue. I can't stress enough what a fantastic opportunity this is for our members, a chance to get 'slightly used' top notch ham equipment at a fraction of the usual price. All you need to be is a member of HCRA to participate! (don't forget to renew for our new season – OK?)

Notes from the cluster...

Foxhunting! Rumor has it Rich/N1KXR and Larry/WB1DBY may have something up their sleeve for an early fall foxhunt or two. Interested? See Rich or Larry at the September meeting.

Field Day: We had a great time, the park and cooperation of Agawam officials was fantastic, the logs are submitted and we will know how we stacked up by December. Stay tuned for a more 'in depth' article soon. Special thanks to Ed/KB1NWH and Matt/W1MSW for handling the move to a new location without skipping a beat.

October Meeting: Features John/N1OLO from [Hamsource](#). This will be a great meeting, more details next month. (Hint: think about what you may want and John just might bring it along!)

Donations Welcome: In addition to on-line renewals you can now easily donate on line too. Simply click the [donate button](#) and you'll be whisked away electronically to finish the deal. As always your donations are greatly appreciated. It's through the generosity of our members we're able to continue offering great events month after month. Don't forget, HCRA is a 501 (c)(3) corporation and your donations are tax deductible.

'73 and see you at the meeting,

Jim/KK1W

A Yaesu FT-857D for only \$10?



That's right! This year, the HCRA's *250* raffle prize is a brand-new Yaesu FT-857D HF/VHF/UHF transceiver.

The *250* means only 250 tickets will be sold, with the drawing scheduled for March 7, 2014 (or earlier, if all the tickets are sold before then).

Tickets are available at any HCRA meeting, or contact n1kxr@arrl.net.

Don't wait—when they're gone, they're gone!

Michigan Summits on the Air!



The view from Mount Christie, near Flint, Michigan (N1FJ photo)

Here's what a SOTA two-pointer looks like in Michigan. I had a wedding to go to in Ann Arbor in August, so I decided to combine the trip with some SOTA activations in the newly designated Michigan Association. I did not do a lot of hiking, but did do a lot of driving! I ended up with five summits, one six pointer, 3 fours, and a two. Then, on the way back, I activated Riansares Mountain in the Pennsylvania Wilds for another six points. Jim, KK1W, worked me on all six peaks! Equipment: KX3, Pico Paddle, LiPo battery, & linked dipole.

—Frandy, N1FJ 3

Indoor Tailgate Parties

The experiment will continue—our trial run at the June meeting was successful. In lieu of an outdoor tailgate party in the parking lot in Feeding Hills, we are planning to have more small-scale flea markets at future meetings at our new meeting place at Holyoke Medical Center (but not at the September meeting). We will allot at least 12 square feet of table space to club members that want to put out a few things for sale -- a rig, a reel of wire, books – anything that fits and is not totally junk, but **NO computers, NO monitors, NO printers!** Table space is free—we are asking a minimum 10% commission on sales for the club's treasury. Table space will be limited and will be allotted on a first-come first-served basis. If you are interested, please contact me at n1fj@arrl.net.

Meeting Location

Our meetings are being held at the Auxiliary Conference Center at the Holyoke Medical Center. Many of you have been here before. It's where the Western Mass VE Team has given examinations for close to a decade. We have all the details of the hall and how to get there on our website:

<http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

Our new location is newly renovated with state of the art heating and cooling, comfortable chairs, a complete A/V setup including screen, projector, sound system and wi-fi. Handicap access, convenient rest room, vending machines and 24/7 security round out the list. Join us!

Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

- QST Magazine
- Members-Only Web Services
- Technical Information Service
- Member Discounts
- Outgoing QSL Service
- Continuing Education
- ARRL as an Advocate
- Regulatory Information Branch
- Public Relations for Amateur Radio
- ARRL Field Organization
- ARRL-sponsored contests
- Operating Awards
- Local Clubs
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- Hamfests and Conventions
- Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program

<http://www.arrl.org/membership>



The Demise of the Repeater?

(Larry Krainson, WB1DBY) In the past 12 months or so, I have been doing much more traveling around the northeast for scouts and scouting out colleges with my son Jacob. Each time before a trip, I would make a list on paper and in my phone of possible repeaters and their settings that I might be able to get in to. Then I'd have the list in my car and also the possible towns where I might be able to key each repeater.

I have become quite adept at manipulating the dual VFO's in my Yaesu FT-8800 vhf/UHF mobile rig. Being able to switch between both VFO's, listen to both at the same time is a plus. I would program one on one side and another on the other side while traveling. Very often finding locals to chat with makes those multi-hundred mile trips more interesting as the music, books on CD, or dead quiet is in need of a change. Even running HF while driving through towns can be daunting and I find it best on the thruways, where less local concentration of the roads is needed. But all too often the hf bands are dead while I'm on long rides, so 2 or 440 is the logical choice.

Where do I get the frequencies? I have a few ham apps for my cell phone. Two years ago I ran across an app called RFinder Worldwide Repeater Directory. I purchased it.

Repeaters can be looked up two ways, by using the gps or phone signal location to get "local" where you are repeaters or you can over ride the location and select where you want, for example Rochester, NY. From there it does a search and comes out with a list of the location, repeaters, frequencies, calls, PL and IRLP, Echolink and more. But for me the location might mean nothing if I'm not familiar with all the towns along my route. So I click on Map and it shows me a click able map of the repeater locations. Tapping a tower brings up info about that repeater. It works great and updates often. You can also tweak the settings for how many miles from your location, bands from 6m up to 900 MHz and more. The ARRL would be better served with this app then the little repeater directories that are so hard to use while traveling they are pretty useless and out of date so quickly. You can find it in the Google Play Store, Apple App store or www.rfinder.net (see two pictures)

Another very useful app is called simply RepeaterBook. This app is also available for Android and Apple and on



the web at www.repeaterbook.com. To use it fully online, you must create a free account. RepeaterBook works very similarly to RFinder. It uses the internal GPS in your phone and then creates a list of repeaters within a certain set distance from you. 20 miles is a good setting. RepeaterBook is nice as you can set the resulting list found to be large. This allows you to read it at a glance and see the results. It will tell you how many miles the repeater is from your current location, direction (i.e. north, west, etc), the call, frequency and PL. If you tap this result, it shows you even more info for the selected repeater. Plus you can select the repeater services you want to show such as FM, D-Star, Echolink, ATV, etc. It also offers something called bluecat auto tuning/auto programming. Read about bluecat at www.zbm2.com

I have both apps in my phone and recently used them both to create a list of repeaters between Albany, NY and where my son is now at college in Brockport, NY. I came up with a list containing 13 repeaters, programmed in order in my radio from slightly west of Albany to Brockport. As I traveled along, I would change to the appropriate repeater along the NY Thruway and call out if I could get into it. But that was another issue. Even though I was running 50 watts and a high gain Diamond vhf/UHF antenna, I was only able to key one of the 15 repeaters on my trip and then only barely. Going out I would keep the repeater on the dial listen and try again to call. But no luck. So from staying at the hotel through going home, I let the memories scan and didn't hear a peep on any of my programmed memories until I got disgusted and shut it off. Has the demise of the repeater come? Are they solely up there now for emergency comms? Or are they turned off until a activity or emergency comes up where they are turned on again? Or was I just too far away on the NY Thruway to be able to key up local town repeaters?

I did program other area repeaters where we have been in the last few years and are likely to return to, such as the Adirondacks and Ithaca areas of NY as well as Cape Cod here in MA. I'll leave the NY Thruway repeaters programmed into my mobile rig as I know the road between home and Brockport will be well traveled for the next 4 years. Hopefully some day I'll actually hear hams on them. Have other travelers experienced this too?

73, Larry, WB1DBY
wb1db@comcast.net

HUGE HCRA/WRTC EQUIPMENT SALE

Part of our participation in WRTC 2014 was an opportunity to purchase four complete WRTC Stations at a reduced price. These stations include everything seen at a WRTC site except the raising fixtures and the radio equipment. The major pieces are a 38' Rohn tower, Yaesu rotator, Cycle 24 triband beam and a Honda 2000 KW generator with extended run tank.

Our reason for purchasing these stations was twofold. We saw an opportunity to offer the equipment to club members at a nice discount and we earmarked a portion of the equipment for our Field Day resources. Our goal is to break even with the sale, thereby allowing HCRA to add to our Field Day equipment and deliver the rest to our members at the best possible price.

Here are some facts worth considering when making your purchase.

1. The equipment has between 24 and 72 hours use (in other words it isn't NEW)
2. A 20% non-refundable deposit is required for purchase
3. Your purchase must be paid in full by June 1, 2014
4. Delivery will be immediately after July 13, 2014
5. You must be a member of HCRA, this offer is not available to the general public
6. Quantities are very limited and are on a first come/first served basis

The sale starts at our September 6th meeting and is being administered by Dave/AA1YW and Jim/KK1W. As mentioned above quantities are limited. If there are more people desiring an item at the September meeting than available a lottery will be held to determine the purchaser (the 20% deposit is required for entry into the drawing but will be returned if you don't win the lottery).

Included in September's Zero Beat is a Purchase Agreement. This agreement lists all the items for sale and quantities available. If you would like to purchase any (or all) items please fill out the agreement and bring it with you to September's meeting.

September's meeting is the first opportunity for purchase. Please don't call/email/telegram you want xxxx prior to the meeting. NO EXCEPTIONS!

'73... and see you at September's meeting!

Dave/AA1YW & Jim/KK1W



HCRA/WRTC Equipment Purchase Agreement

Date: ____/____/____

Name: _____, Call: _____

Street: _____, City: _____, State: ____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) - ____ - _____ email: _____@_____

Purchaser agrees to the following:

1. A 20% non-refundable deposit at date of purchase.
2. Payment made in full by June 1, 2014
3. Purchased items will be available for delivery/pickup after July 13, 2014
4. Purchaser understands the goods are used and without warranty

Available	Item	Item	Retail	HCRA	Qty	20% Deposit	Balance Due
12	25G, 10' section	Rohn, 25G	\$ 135	\$ 60			
4	25G, 8' rocket top w/4' mast and rotor bracket	Rohn, 25G	\$ 309	\$ 150			
4	Rotator w/125' cable	Yaesu, G-450A	\$ 404	\$ 225			
4	2000KW Generator w/Berg Extended run tank	Honda, EU-2000i	\$ 1,119	\$ 750			
2	Tent	Eureka Cop Canyon 8	\$ 379	\$ 100			
8	150' Coax w/PL259	Times, LMR-240	\$ 120	\$ 50			
2	Tri-band Beam Antenna	Cycle 24, TX-38	\$ 1,000	\$ 500			
2	80M dipole	Radio Oasis	\$ 55	\$ 20			
2	40M dipole	Radio Oasis	\$ 40	\$ 20			
6	36" x 36" Folding Table	?	\$ 70	\$ 25			
8	Folding Chairs	?	\$ 15	\$ 10			
4	Lamp	?	\$ 10	\$ 5			
4	Fan	?	\$ 15	\$ 5			
4	Camp Toilet	?	\$ 40	\$ 10			
				Totals:			

SELLER

HCRA Inc.

By _____

Name, Title

Date

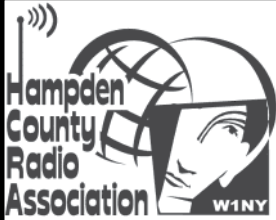
BUYER

_____ (printed)

By (signature) _____

Name, Title

Date



HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, MA 01001



Application for New or Renewal Membership

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____

ADDRESS: _____ LICENSE CLASS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: Home (____) _____-_____ Cell (____) _____-_____

Work (____) _____-_____ - ____ext ARRL Member: Yes No

E-mail: _____@_____ I don't want to be a member of the HCRA mailing list

Type of application: New Renewal (see below)

If renewal use data already on file?: Yes No

Class of application: Regular Family

*Donations are tax deductible!
Thanks!*

Please list additional family members (family members at same household are free!)

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	

My interests: (please check all that apply, even if renewing)

<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Power	<input type="checkbox"/> Digital Modes	<input type="checkbox"/> QRP
<input type="checkbox"/> Antennas	<input type="checkbox"/> DX'ing	<input type="checkbox"/> Satellite
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Ham Classes
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Training (Elmering)
<input type="checkbox"/> Contesting	<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF
<input type="checkbox"/> CW	<input type="checkbox"/> Kit Building	<input type="checkbox"/> ?

Thoughts for improving 'our' club:

Received by: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___

Entered in database by _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___

Payment received by _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___

Annual Dues:	\$15.00
Donation:	\$ ____ .00
Total:	\$ ____ .00

Local happenings

(All times are local time)

Sundays: 0845: Western Mass Emergency Net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

First Monday: Southwick Regional RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

Mondays: 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

Tuesdays: 1930-2000: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - Hampshire County Emergency Net

Wednesdays: 1930: MTARA Info net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - includes NTS Net

2000: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

2000: MTARA Simplex Net - starts on 146.94 - PL 127.3, then goes to 146.42 direct (simplex) Usually starts immediately following the swap net.

Thursdays: 2100: Weather Net (Roger, K1PAI Net Control), 1st Thursday of every month: 147.090 MHz, All other Thursdays: 147.000, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

Fridays: 1200: BB's (Brown Baggers Luncheon)

Munich House

13 Center Street

Chicopee, MA 01013

Expect between 6 and 12 attendees every Friday. Good food, great company!

Club meetings & VE sessions

1st Friday of the month 7:30 PM, HCRA Club Meeting, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech St. Holyoke MA 01040 (no meetings held in July or August) <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

3rd Friday of the month 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, Springfield, Mass. (no meetings held in July or August)

4th Friday of the month 6:00 PM, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, Mass. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET). Contact: David Cote, w1fab@arrl.net

Third Monday of the month 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield High School (no meetings held in July or August) <http://www.fcarc.org/>

4th Monday of February, May, August, November 7:00 PM, FCARC VE Exams, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Northfield <http://www.fcarc.org/>

Next YCCC Meeting is Saturday, April 6th, 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm, Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, Mass. <http://www.yccc.org/>

Flea markets coming up

8 Sept Woonsocket RI BVARC 8AM @HI FortinDr
FreeTG Bob W1YRC 401 333 2129 W 8 Sept Windsor
ME AARA @FG Bill K1NIT 207 512
0312 W

9 Sept Newtown CT CARA @TownHall \$5@8:30 \$10/TG
\$15/T Joe AB1DO 203 938 4880 W 15 Sept Forestdale RI
RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Rick K1KYI 401 864
9611

15 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM
Outdoor John 860 673 0518 16 Sept Cambridge MA
FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F

29 Sept Center Conway NH WMARC @RecCtr \$5@8:30
Thaire W2APF 603 447 2376

29 Sept Brookline NH NEAntqRC@
EvntCtr\$10@7:30\$4@8:30\$0@10 Bruce 603 772 7516
W+

7 Oct Meriden CT Nutmeg @Sheraton was Wallingford
John N1GNV 203 440 4973 F+

12,13 Oct Deerfield NH NEARFest XII @FG
Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235

Visit our website at
<http://www.hcra.org>

HCRA contact list

President, Jim Mullen KK1W (413) 237-4666
kk1w@arrl.net

Vice-President, Ed LaCombe KB1NWH (413) 250-3137
kb1nwh@comcast.net

Treasurer, Dave Cain AA1YW (413) 569-6901
aa1yw@arrl.net

Secretary, Dave Scarpa N1MFL (413) 241-0139
scarpad@comcast.net

At Large, John Pise KX1X (413) 532-7474
kx1x@arrl.net

Newsletter, Frandy Johnson N1FJ (413) 584-9005
n1fj@arrl.net

Programs, Matt Wilhelm W1MSW (413) 336-4701
w1msw@arrl.net

Membership, Rich Wheeler N1KXR (413) 584-3372
n1kxr@arrl.net

Technical, Bob Meneguzzo K1YO
k1yo@comcast.net

Skywarn Liaison, Eric Tuller N1QKO (413) 967-3869
et-n1qko@juno.com

VE Session Liaison, Dave Cote W1FAB (413) 575-2950
w1fab@arrl.net

WRTC 2013 Report

(Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW) On Friday, July 13th several HCRA members trekked out east to the former grounds of the Medfield State Hospital and participated in the 2013 station test for the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championships. The station test took place during the IARU HF Championship Contest and the goals this year included:

- Expand the pool of experienced teams for station set-up
- Evaluate proposed site locations for radio quietness and equality
- Confirm logistics and procedures to set up and tear down a large number of stations
- Gather log data under competition conditions to share with WRTC 2014 competitors

Last year we were only responsible for setting up one station. This year we set up two stations and had a few more folks helping. Club members included KK1W, AA1YW, N1SR, W1EQO, N1AW, NV1Q, KB1WAL, KB1TLX, and W3SM. The WRTC Board of Directors made many equipment and logistics improvements since last year's station test and many of those improvements were made based on feedback the WB1Z team submitted. The improvements worked well and sped up many aspects of the station setups.

Stations consisted of a large tent, tables and chairs for two operators, a Honda 2KW generator, a 40 foot tower with a Cycle 24 TX38 tribander and "inverted vee" dipoles for 40 and 80 meters. Both stations and towers were set up during the day on Friday. The weather was much better this year, which helped reduce some of the fatigue we experienced last year in the direct sun and 100 degree heat. After the infrastructure was in place, we decided to call it a day and set up the radios and triplexers on Saturday morning before the contest kicked off at 8 am. The next morning after some much needed rest, we lived up to the title of "amateurs" by running late and not completing the radio setup until about 10 minutes after the contest started. Finally, the WB1Z station was up and operating and after a couple check-ins across the Medfield site with the W1SJ station where operators K1LI and W1SJ were hunkered down for the entire 24 hour contest, things were working well.

For the next 24 hours everyone took turns in the two operating positions working stations around the globe using both SSB and CW. No major technical issues came up during the contest other than those accidentally caused by

our own actions, which were quickly corrected.

One of the neat additions this year was a real-time scoreboard system. Most stations are quite remote and rely solely on the generator for power with no other amenities. The WRTC Live Scoreboard Team was able to circumvent this by attaching a Raspberry Pi to the network switch that connects both logging laptops. The laptops are configured to broadcast scoring information to the network and the Raspberry Pi collects that info and sends it to a central scoreboard server via a provided 4G mobile hotspot. The result is that operators, organizers and spectators can check the scores of all the teams throughout the contest by visiting the website sb.wrtc2014.org. If the Raspberry Pi/Mobile Hotspot system stops working in the contest, the site manager can send score updates via SMS. It is always fun to see new technology incorporated into a century-old hobby.

By the time that the contest was over at 8 am Sunday morning, the WB1Z team stats were as follows: QSOs, 1064: HQ-89, DX-112, 80M-191/8/9, 40M-257/24/26, 20M-388/34/41, 15M-207/21/33, 10M-21/2/3. (Band

breakdowns show QSOs/HQ/Countries.)

Station breakdown started before the end of the contest. Operators continued to try to squeeze in a few more contacts. Once the contest was over we quickly, but carefully (items will be used again next year!) broke down the remaining equipment. HCRA member Steve – N1SR debuted his newly designed tower jack

that puts equal pressure around the Rohn 25 as it separates sections from one another. It worked perfectly and what in the past was a frustrating and laborious process happened in seconds and was relatively effortless. It's also worth mentioning that Jeff, NT1K, helped Steve fabricate the design. Steve's "Jacker" is a great example of the talent and ingenuity in our club. Word on the street is that the new design will also pull sections together!

The last station test is now complete and next year testers from around the globe will be coming to New England to see who is the number one operating team. It's not too late to be part of this historic event. We will be putting together a total of four sites at Medfield next year and we need more people to help with set-up and staffing the site during the event. It's a great chance to meet people from not only the New England contesting and amateur community, but from all over the world. If you're interested in volunteering for next year, please contact Matt W1MSW@arrl.net or Jim - KK1W@arrl.net.



Membership Renewal Time!

(Rich Wheeler, N1KXR) Welcome back on behalf of the HCRA Board of Directors. We hope you've had good and memorable times since our last meeting. Labor Day weekend is behind us, fall will soon be upon us and with that, comes all those get-ready-for-winter chores. However, for now, we can enjoy September and our first meeting of the 2013/2014 season.

Traditionally, the September meeting is renewal time for club members. As our Club President, Jim, KK1W, says, "Your dues go toward funding HCRA events like Field Day and the Holiday Party, offset mailing costs for our members without email access, cover our web hosting and liability insurance expenses and IRLP node maintenance and more. We need your continuing support to keep HCRA rolling along in high gear." That being said, I'll have the membership table set up and ready to assist you in keeping

your membership in good standing.

If you're one of those people who don't like to wait to the last minute to get things done and/or enjoy new things and new technology, then the HCRA has something you'll find useful. Membership renewals may now be done online! It's easy, it's fast—and—it's secure. Please click on this link to see for yourself: <http://www.hcra.org/membership-payment>

Please note however, at this time only renewals can be processed at this time. New members will still need to submit hard copies of membership applications, as their information is not in our database. If you choose to renew in person at the September 6th (or at any) meeting, please bring a completed application with you—it will make the process quicker for everyone. You can download an application here: <http://www.hcra.org/membership>

73, and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Rich



HCRA Field Day panorama, June 2013, at Agawam's School Street Park.

Photo by Kiely Allen, K2KHA



N1FJ Photos



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