

# Zero Beat



Our 54<sup>th</sup> Year

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

September 1999

## Old time radio and Current time News

Join Us on Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1999 as  
We begin this new season with our September Meeting  
Doors open at 7:00, and the meeting starts at 7:30  
Get there early for a good seat!!!

We have two featured speakers for the September HCRA meeting!  
*John Ellsworth* of the Vintage Radio & Communications Museum of Connecticut, Inc. will be here. Discussion will include talks on radio, television, motion picture and telephone equipment and their history.

There will be vintage radios on display.

*Tom Frenaye*, K1KI, ARRL New England Division Director, will be here to talk to us about the FCC's new Universal License System (ULS) and address concerns you may have about this new system.

Read about the ULS system on Page 7.

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# *From the President's Shack* de W6IS

Welcome Back!!!

By the time you read this, the summer will be just about behind us. I hope all of you have had an enjoyable summer. HCRA is again looking forward to another successful year. The newly elected board is very enthusiastic and working hard to make the coming year the best yet.

Since this is our first **Zero Beat** after the last Field Day, I would like to thank all of you that participated in one way or another. HCRA operated as a Two Alpha and had close to 1100 Q's. A GREAT JOB -- congratulations to all.

We have an extra special meeting planned for September. For our guest speaker we have John Ellsworth of the Antique Radio Museum. He will talk and have a display of vintage radio equipment. We will also have on display some of the vintage radio collection of Jim, WA1ZUH and Jim, WB1Z. This alone should make for a very enjoyable evening, but we have more! Tom Frenaye K1KI, ARRL New England Division Director will also be there to explain and answer any questions on the FCC Universal Licensing System ( ULS ).

The September raffle prize will be an ALINCO DJ-S11T 2m HT and an MFJ station clock. Look for the "incentive coupon" on the next page in this **Zero Beat**.

Just a quick update on the special event October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME. The call sign for the event will be WB1HOF (world basketball one hall of fame). We will be operating at the top of the first floor landing a very conspicuous area, right in the heart of things. If you would like to participate, contact Jim, WB1Z, for more information.

Looking for another piece of equipment or looking to clean out your shack? Mark your calendar for the annual HCRA auction at the November club meeting. An auction we all look forward to every year, lets make this one bigger and better then ever. Lets spread the word around. For more info contact, Jim, WA1ZUH.

As you all must know by now, we have a new **Zero Beat** editor. John, KX1X, is our new newsletter editor and any articles or information that you may want published in **Zero Beat** should go to him. His E-mail address is kx1x@arrl.net. Barry, N1IJK, has done a super job as editor and on behalf of HCRA a big thank you. Just a note -- Barry will still be an active member of the club, but had to give up editing because of work commitments and traveling.

Friday, September 3 is the date of our next meeting, usual time and place. Please mark your calendar and give your best shot to be there. Really looking forward to seeing you all there.

*73 de Irv, W6IS*

### HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

#### HCRA OFFICERS

President	Irv Slitzky, W6IS	(413) 565-5222	w6is1@juno.com
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Secretary	Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com

#### HCRA DIRECTORS

At Large	Al Drake, N1CQT	(413) 783-8427	
Program	Larry Smith, K1ILZ	(413) 566-3010	kilzncet@aol.com
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#### STATION TRUSTEES

W1NY Trustee	Don Johnson, W1UPH	(413) 566-3560 (let it ring)	wluph2@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

\*\*\*\* FREE RAFFLE TICKET \*\*\*\*

Use this coupon to get 1 free raffle ticket  
when you buy at least 1  
Offer is good at the September HCRA Club  
Meeting ONLY

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Alinco DJ-S11T 2m HT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize MFJ station clock

LIMIT one coupon per person  
Free Ticket is in addition to the  
HCRA Badge Bonus Ticket

*Just when you thought it was safe to get  
back on 2m*  
**The HCRA W1NY 2m Net returns!!!**  
**On the 147.105 (+600) repeater**  
**Tuesday Nights at 7:30 PM**  
**Beginning September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1999**  
**Join us for ARRL Audio News at 7:15**  
**with NCS – KX1X, John**  
*Don't forget the HCRA/W1NY 10m Net*  
*28.375 +/- QRM*  
**Monday Nights at 7:30 PM**  
**with NCS – N1MUV, Tom**



# DX Clips

de

Jordy, W1JK

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. September promises to be a great month to reawaken your urge to work DX.

This month I will discuss Rotators. Square footage/surface area is not all you need to know. The #1 cause of rotator failure is "under-specification" installations. The gears get ground to bits in a wind storm. This occurs because the turning forces are much greater than you expected. Check out the turning & brake capability of the rotator. "Sq. ft." specs only tell you how many sq. ft. a rotator can hold. It does not take into account the distribution of the antenna mass along the boom. Long boom antennas build up considerable momentum during rotation.

**Tips:** Always buy more rotator than you need. The additional cost is dwarfed by the peace of mind one gains.

Also, always use a thrust bearing at the tower top. Solenoid type brakes are superior to magnetic brakes & should be designed for delayed operation to allow sufficient time for the antenna to "settle" before the wedge is driven between the gears.

A heavier - duty rotator than presently needed also allows for the addition of another antenna on the same mast & in the long - run saves money & time.

Plan ahead!! A 10 ft. mast is more than you need for one HF Tribander, but you'll be glad you have it if you want to add a VHF Yagi on top.

**Look for:** P29BI - Papua New Guinea: Steve, VK4EMS is now active & will remain there until late Dec, 1999. 20M = 0645-1730Z & 1130-1200Z (14260). 15M (21260) around 2330Z. QSL via VK4EJ.

T31 & ZK3 - Central Kiribati & Tokelau: A DXpedition is scheduled for T31 from Sept 23-Oct 3 & ZK3 from Oct 7-12.

T2 - Tuvalu: Roberto, EA4DX will be active from T2 & 3D2 (Fiji) from Aug 26-Sept 11 (T2) & Sept 13-16 (3D2). QSL via EA4CP.

S79GI - Seychelles: Bert, PA3GIO will be active from Sept 2-14. QSL preferably via Bureau to PA3GIO.

5W - Western Samoa: Gerard, PA3AXU will be operating with his XYL (Ria) Sept 28-Oct 14. QSL via PA3AXU.

See you next month.

de Jordy Koltz, W1JK, W1JK@MAP.COM



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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 2 & 3. We will be operating several HF bands and 2 meter simplex under the call WB1HOF (World Basketball One Hall of Fame). Hours of operation are 10-4 on Saturday and 10-2 on Sunday. The club is looking for operators to man the station and people to help set up and tear down. We are in need of the following equipment as well:

- 2 HF rigs, preferably of newer vintage
- 1 VHF rig (2 meters)
- 1 or 2 wire antennas capable of 20,40 and/or 10 meters
- Feedline for same
- 1 or 2 computers for logging. Preferred would be laptops with an external monitor
- 2 meter antenna ( a magmount would probably suffice)

If you are interested in helping out and taking part in this great opportunity to promote the club and amateur radio, please contact myself or Irv W6I S as early as possible. de WB1Z, Jim

Jim Allen WB1Z 413-536-5182 jim.allen@the-spa.com

Irv Slitzky W6I S 413-565-5222 w6is1@juno.com



PLEASE!!!

... \_ \_ \_ ...

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Let them know  
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Zero Beat

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



**Chuck Wyrick**  
Eastern Regional Mgr.  
KM4NZ

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



Contact Irv, W6IS, for further details - 413-565-5222 or [w6is1@juno.com](mailto:w6is1@juno.com)



#### Auction held at:

Feeding Hills Congregational Church  
21 North Westfield Street  
Feeding Hills, MA 01103

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!**

## **ULS LOOMS LARGE FOR AMATEURS**

*From the ARRL News Letter, August 13, 1999*

Say hello to the ULS! Monday, August 16, the FCC's Universal Licensing System becomes a reality for the Amateur Service. The FCC said August 13 that the ULS would be out of service until then to prepare for implementation. This means amateurs will have to wait until the ULS is back up to register.

The ULS ushers in an era of electronic, interactive filing and handling of Amateur Radio applications and marks a major change in the way hams will deal with the FCC. It also means the demise of the familiar paper FCC Form 610 series in favor of the "universal" Form 605--primarily designed for electronic use but also available on paper. Once registered, amateurs filing applications with the FCC under the ULS will use Form 605 for all purposes except--at least for now--club station applications.

The FCC began a weeklong ULS phase-in period for the Amateur Service August 8 and has been converting existing Amateur Radio licensing data into the ULS database. Electronic Amateur Radio license renewal using FCC Form 900 was scheduled to end August 9. Electronic vanity call sign application using Form 610V was to terminate August 13 at 5:30 PM Eastern Time. Hams should not file renewal or vanity applications until the ULS comes up August 16.

Before using the ULS to file an application, renew or modify a license, or apply for a vanity call sign, all amateurs must register. When registering, individuals eligible to hold a Social Security Number must provide this number--which the FCC refers to as a Taxpayer Information Number or TIN. This requirement is a mandate of Congress, not of the FCC. All hams must be registered in the ULS to do business with the FCC.

Applicants use TIN Registration Form 606 for both electronic or manual registration. To register electronically, visit <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/> and click on "TIN/Call Sign Registration." A paper Form 606 is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html> or by calling 800-418-FORM (3676). One big advantage only to on-line registrants is that the ULS application system checks for errors before data are submitted.

Applicants first register their Social Security Number (or TIN) then enter a call sign. Applicants also must select a password to identify themselves in future, private transactions with the FCC database. A valid password can be from 5 to 30 alphanumeric characters and is case-sensitive. For additional security, applicants also specify a personal identifier. The FCC and ARRL recommend that applicants not use their Amateur Radio call signs as a passwords or identifiers.

Registrants receive a nine-character Licensee Identification Number. Amateurs may use this number in place of a Social Security Number in future dealings with the FCC. Those filing a paper ULS Form 606 by mail will not receive an acknowledgement from the FCC. Paper filers can obtain their FCC-generated Licensee ID Number from ULS Technical Support at 202-414-1250.

For now, applications for club, military recreation, and RACES licenses should be filed on the "old" FCC Form 610B. Trustees and custodians of these licenses should not use their personal Social Security Number as the TIN for these applications but should contact ULS Technical Support (202-414-1250) to obtain a FCC-generated identification number for Form 610B. Applications that do not include this number are subject to dismissal.

Applications for new licenses or upgrades will continue to be filed through a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. VECs will use a special NCVEC Form 605--a variation of Form 605--to file with the FCC for test sessions.

Starting August 16, hams already registered in the ULS may file applications using the new FCC Form 605 electronically at any time of day, seven days a week. FCC Form 605 will be used for license renewals, modifications, cancellations, application withdrawals and amendments, as well as requests for a vanity call sign, duplicate license, change of address or other clerical license modification. Visit the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau ULS page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls> and click "Connecting to ULS" for information on accessing the ULS system. Accessing the ULS database requires a telephone modem. A toll-free number, 800-844-2784, connects users to the FCC's Wide Area Network.

Among other things, the ULS features a renewal reminder sent 90 days prior to a license's expiration date. The ULS also simplifies the process of submitting fees to the FCC. The FCC said it also anticipates that the ULS will be capable of accepting credit card payments on-line "in the near future."

For more information, visit the FCC's ULS page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>.



# Lightning

BY

*Eric Tuller*

*N1QKO*

flash floods+warlords+winterstorms+callisto+tornados

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS.....AMATEUR RADIO!!!

earthquakes+monsters+hurricanes+evil gods+public service

## *Personal Lightning Safety Tips*

1. Plan in advance your evacuation and safety measures. When you first see lightning or hear thunder, go to a building or a vehicle. Lightning often precedes rain, so don't wait for the rain to begin before suspending activities.

2. IF OUTDOORS...Avoid water. Avoid the high ground. Avoid open spaces. Avoid all metal objects including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors power tools, etc. Unsafe places include underneath canopies, small picnic or rain shelters, or near trees. When possible, find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck, or a van with

windows completely shut.

If lightning is striking nearby when you are outside, you should :

A: Crouch down. Put feet together. Place hands over ears to minimize hearing damage from thunder.

B: Avoid proximity ( minimum of 15ft.) to other people.

3. IF INDOORS... Avoid water. Stay away from doors and windows. Do not use the telephone. Take off head sets. Turn off, unplug, and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools, & TV sets. Lightning may strike exterior electric and phone lines, inducing shocks to inside equipment.

4. SUSPEND ACTIVITIES for 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder.

5. INJURED PERSONS do not carry an electric charge and can be handled safely. Apply First Aid procedures to a lightning victim if you are qualified to do so. Call 911 or send for help immediately.

Brought to you by the National Lightning Safety Institute, 303-666-8817

73 de N1QKO





# HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 562  
Agawam, MA 01001



## Application for new or renewal membership

### Personal Information:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ext

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

### Membership Information:

Type of application:  New  Renewal

Class of application:  Regular  Family

*Donations are tax deductible!  
Thanks!*

Dues are \$10.00/year for regular membership  
Additional family members are free.

Would you like to receive "ZeroBase" via e-mail?  
 Yes  No  No Preference

Annual Dues:	\$	10.00
Donation:	\$	____.00
Total:	\$	____.00

### Amateur Radio Interests:

Are you an ARRL member?  Yes  No

Are you a Volunteer Examiner  Yes  No



Please check any and all interests that apply:

- HF  VHF  UHF  Repeaters  Satellite  Digital Modes  DX
- Contests  Field Day  Technical/Construction
- Emergency Communication  Training  Assist with club functions

The next meeting of the  
Hampden County Radio Association  
Will be on Friday  
**September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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