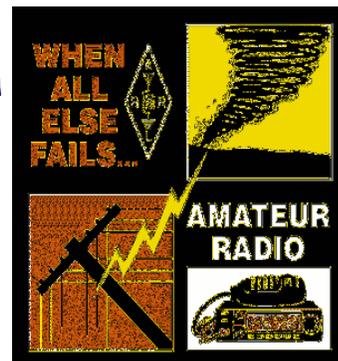




ZERO BEAT

A Publication of the
Hampden County Radio Association
<http://www.hcra.org>



JUNE 2008

Next Meeting:

**Friday, June 6th, 2008:
Tail Gate Party at 6:00pm**

The Presidents Message from Jim KB1JVF

Can you believe that the year is over? Wow, I came in with high hopes and leave with mixed feelings. We had one of the best sign ups in a few years. During the winter we had a drop of attendance at our meetings. This in talking to people was due to two things; a bad string of weather on Friday nights. We have a group of our members that can not drive after dark. Together they accounted for 10 to 15 people.

I told you that I wasn't comfortable as President. Unlike previous organizations I didn't feel that comfortable in May. So when Jim KK1W said he wanted to be president again, I removed my name. There was a lot more to it. I need to concentrate on cleaning up the collection of Ham equipment I've collected. I will shortly have a new neighbor after not having a house within ½ mile of me. I need to plant some posiey's and get to be a good neighbor. I also need to get a tower up, and some antenna's so I can practice what I preach.

I still have some projects in the wind. The biggest is Field Day, which is coming quick. If you have information on whether you will attend Field Day let me know. We still need operators, Set up Take Down, and general help on Friday and Saturday.

On July 19 & 20 We will have a special event station at the 28th Annual American Legion Post 351, Holyoke, Ma. On Saturday the 19 the hours of operation are 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. and Sunday 8 A.M to 2:30 P.M. You can e-mail me if you would like to take part. The more the merrier.

On Saturday September 27 we will jointly have a Special Event Station at the Vintage Radio Museum in Windsor, Ct.

“We both agree that the upcoming celebration of Windsor’s 375th anniversary would be a suitable event. The town will be celebrating through September, but there is a big parade on Saturday, the 27th, so there should be quite a number of visitors to the town that day. Is that date clear for your group? “

My Reply was yes.

I am still awaiting word about the “Big E” and hope to hear soon.

73,

Hope to see you on the radio!

Jim KB1JVF

Soon to be the ex-president

Hampden County Radio Association

HCRA ANNUAL TAILGATE PARTY

Friday, June 6th @ 6:00 PM



It's June and you know what that means? Hamfests, Field Day and the annual Tail Gate Party. Now is the time to either start putting some stuff aside to sell or saving a few pennies to buy some much needed accessories for the shack. The official set-up time is 5:00 PM get there early and pick a prime spot for your truck or your tailgate.

Selling Tip!

Take the time to put prices on your valuable items and/or boxes of junk. It really helps when you're busy with one customer and can't answer another's question. A few minutes spent cleaning and shining never hurts either!

As in year's past the fee for exhibiting is a mere \$5 and buyers are free! Tables are not provided (it's a tail gate party—but if you need a table or two we can supply them at a nominal fee) You don't have to be a member of HCRA to either buy or sell but you'll probably want to become a member when you see how much fun this great group of hams has with their hobby. Don't forget to bring a friend!

And a great raffle prize too!

Just in time for portable operation this summer you could win a Yaesu VX170 HT. For as little as a \$1 donation you can purchase a ticket to win a 5 watt two meter handheld worth over \$120. Additional raffle prizes to be drawn tonight will include Field Day T-Shirts and Pins.



Win this Yaesu VX170!



This is also HCRA's last meeting of the season. A new election slate will be presented for ratification (see info elsewhere in this issue) as well as additional Field Day planning. Speaking of Field Day have you marked your calendar for June 27th to the 29th. You wouldn't want to miss a minute of the fun. The latest information can be found on the HCRA web site. Sign up now for the most fun ever!

This year's Tail Gate Party is coordinated by George, KC1V and Ed, KB1NWH. Feel free to contact them with any questions (info on www.hcra.org). When you see them be sure to give Ed and George a big thank you for putting together this fun event.

HCRA Board Meeting

05/06/08

Present: Jim KB1JVF, George KC1V, Dave AA1YW, Larry WB1DBY, John KI1A, John N1JIO, Ed KB1NWH, Dave KB1MU.

President- Jim Harrington KB1JVF

Jim KB1JVF will head up the Catfish Derby Special Event, and George KC1V and Ed KB1NWH will head up the Tailgate Party. Currently there is no action on the Vintage Radio Museum Special Event.

Vice President- Dave Cain, AA1YW

The club will look into less expensive raffle prizes. The original purpose of the monthly raffle was to pay the rental costs for the hall. Recently the raffle has just barely covered the cost of prizes.

Suggestions for prizes included gift certificates (HRO and the like.) and possibly gas cards.

Treasurer- George Collins, KC1V

Initial Balance: \$4444.35

Expenses \$61.78 Coop Printing May ZeroBeat

\$80.00 Church, May hall rental

Income \$45.00 May Raffle

\$60.00 Dues (4)

Current Balance \$4407.57

Secretary- Dave Isham KB1MU

Note!

When a member changes his email address, letting the Secretary know will insure continued delivery of ZeroBeat.

Ed KB1NWH, as part of the membership director duties will attempt to cleanup the e-mail bounces of ZeroBeat.

At Large- None

No Report-

Program- Johnny Lenville KI1A

No additional presentations have been arranged. The May speaker Jose Castillo N1BAA has agreed to make another presentation in October using a projector. September speaker will be N1FAA with a presentation about his EMCOMM vehicle.

Technical- John Stark, N1JIO

No report

Membership- Ed LaCombe KB1NWH

Ed is continuing to chase down renewals.

ZB Editor- Larry Krainson, WB1DBY

As always, Larry needs content for ZeroBeat.

Old Business

Field Day the board voted to advance \$700.00 for field day food/meals.

There still are many positions available, Talk with Jim KB1JVF about volunteering.

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!!!

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, South Hadley, MA.

For a list of IRLP nodes and other IRLP information, go to:
<http://www.irlp.net/>

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 Johnny, K1IA at
K1IA@comcast.net or (413) 543-9367

Zero Beat Contributions: Anything of interest is welcome. Please submit your ideas, articles and more to wb1dby@comcast.net. Thank you, Larry, WB1DBY, Zero Beat Editor

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions
Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

President

Jim Harrington, KB1JVF
(413) 862-3230 jldhjr@verizon.net

Vice-President

Dave Cain, AA1YW
(413) 569-6801 aa1yw@arrl.net

Treasurer

George Collins, KC1V
(860) 749-2701 kc1v@arrl.net

Secretary

Dave Isham, KB1MU
(413) 596-6605 kb1mu@charter.net

HCRA DIRECTORS

At Large

Open
Your Name & Call Here

Program

Johnny Lenville, K1IA
(413) 543-9367 ki1a@comcast.net

Membership

Ed Lacombe, KB1NWH
(413) 250-3137 kb1nwh@comcast.net

Zero Beat Editor

Larry Krainson, WB1DBY
(413) 567-3505 wb1dby@comcast.net

Technical

John Stark, N1JIO
(413) 747-8169 n1jio_qrp@yahoo.com

STATION TRUSTEES

W1NY Trustee

Don Johnson, W1UPH
(413) 566-3560 w1uph@arrl.net

WB1Z Trustee

Jim Mullen, KK1W
(413) 245-3228 kk1w@charter.net

IRLP Trustee

John Pise, Kx1x
(413) 532-7474 kx1x@arrl.net



2008/2009 Election

It is with great pride we present the following slate of proposed officers for the 2008/2009 Elections. Approval of this slate will be at the June 6th club meeting.

There is still time to toss your hat in the ring. Although most positions are filled there are a few board members that could be 'convinced' to step aside and let some new ham have a hand in guiding our club. We are also looking for a program director. If you feel you have something to contribute to HCRA please contact the board before June 6th.

Now on to the slate:

2008/2009 Slate of Proposed Officers & Directors	
<u>Officers</u>	
President	Jim Mullen, KK1W
Vice President	John Pise, Kx1x
Treasurer	George Collins, KC1V
Secretary	Ed LaCombe, KB1NWH
<u>Directors</u>	
Editor	Larry Krainson, WB1DBY
Technical	Jim Whitehouse, K1JAW
Membership	Dave Cain, AA1YW
At Large	Irv Slitzky, W6IS
Program	open

Thanks to all of the above that have volunteered their time for the betterment of HCRA and its members. Without hams like you our club would not be as strong, active and fun as it is today.

FIELD DAY WEEKEND MENU & PRICING

- Meal prices are: Saturday: Breakfast \$4.50 Lunch \$6.00 Supper \$15.00
- Sunday Breakfast: \$6.00 Lunch \$6.00
- The only change is \$.50 on Saturday Breakfast.
- Meals are Saturday Breakfast Coffee, Donuts, muffins (On the Go!)
- Lunch is Hamburgs, Hot dogs, etc.
- Supper is the Slow cooked side of beef of year's past.
- Sunday: Leftover beef, eggs, bacon, toast etc.
- Lunch grinders. PB&J will be available to all. (for Larry DBY) :-)

So, as many found out last year that if you're there for 3 meals at any time, the price of the weekend at \$25.00 for everything including Drinks is a bargain.

A NOTE FROM JOHN-KX1X

It is the intent of this note to officially request that my name be included in this year's slate of officer candidates. Though school and scouting take up a good share of my 'free' time, I feel I should find a way to keep active with this club. I would like to be included on the slate for the Vice President position for the coming year.

In the last couple of years, the sunspots have been decreasing as has the Venture Crew participation with the club. Now that we have reached the minimum for both, an upswing is in motion for the near future. With Mike, K1KAA, and five 13-14 year olds, Crew participation and activity will begin its incline in the next year. It is only with the help of the HCRA and local hams that the Crew will, hopefully, reach a level of involvement similar to the 2003-2004 season.

In keeping with this upswing in participation, BSA Venture Crew 510 will commit to participation in the W1NY Field Day at Dufresne Park this year. As I have been the bandcaptain for 20m SSB over the last few years, I will team up with Mike, K1KAA, as well as other crew testers this year to work the 20m station (in the FABmobile, with the IC746).

I will also help mentor/coach the GOTA station. The crew has a few new (less than one year) hams, and there is the possibility of new non-hams attending as well. As in the past, the Crew 746 can be used for the GOTA station, but I respectfully request the use of the Crew callsign 'NE1C' for the GOTA.

Ham It Up!

'73 de Kx1x
John J. Pise, Jr.

Field Day from the Past—N1FJ in QST 1952!

A Boy Scout camp at Crete, Nebraska, was the scene of operations for the Crete Amateur Radio Club, whose members are shown winding up operations of WØYHN/Ø. HQ-129X and NC-100X receivers, a Temco 75GA transmitter and a 130-foot end-fed antenna comprised the station layout.



indicates power up to and including 30 watts (multiplier of 3); B indicates power over 30, up to and including 100 watts (multiplier of 2); C indicates over 100 watts (multiplier of 1). More than one letter indicates that at times power inputs fell within different classifications.

One Transmitter

WØTKX/Ø	Twin City Contest Club	464-	A- 6-	4401
W1TX/1	Connecticut Wireless Assn.	455-	A-13-	4296
W8LI/8	(nonclub group)	455-	A- 9-	4230
W1EH/1	South Lyme Beer, Chowder and Propagation Society	439-	A- 7-	4176
W8HQ/8	Tusco Radio Club	344-	A- 4-	3231
W9JKV/9	New Albany Amateur Radio Club	314-	A- 4-	3051
W5IX/5	San Leon Gumbo, Grouper & Grounded Grid Radiation Society	300-	A-10-	2925
W8GQ/8	Dayton Amateur Radio Assn.	282-	A-12-	2763
W3FLY/3	Beacon Radio Amateurs	261-	A- 7-	2574
W8RTR/8	Canton Amateur Radio Club	261-	A- 7-	2574
VE3TM/3	Frontier Radio Assn.	259-	A- 5-	2556
W2WER/2	Oswego County Amateur Radio Assn.	258-	A-15-	2547
W6LLP/6	(nonclub group)	279-	A- 3-	2511
W8CEA/8	(nonclub group)	413-	B- 6-	2478
WØZEWY/Ø	Sioux Falls Amateur Radio Club	397-	B-13-	2472
W1INM/1	Providence Radio Assn.	254-	A-13-	2421
VE3FS/3	(nonclub group)	263-	A- 4-	2367
VE3AVI/3	Frontier Radio Assn.	237-	A- 5-	2358
WØSO/Ø	Jayhawk Amateur Radio Society	392-	B- 9-	2352
W2CGK/2	Amateur Radio Society of Queens	234-	A- 7-	2331
WØTIU/Ø	Central Iowa Amateur Radio Club	231-	A- 9-	2304
WØWML/Ø	Newton (Iowa) Radio Club	229-	A-10-	2286
W2ODP/2	Irrington Radio Amateur Club	226-	A-10-	2259
W3GAG/3	Philadelphia Wireless Assn.	346-	AB- 5-	2235
W6HDT/6	Fullerton Radio Club	223-	A-12-	2223
W3EDU/3	York Amateur Radio Club	241-	A-14-	2169
VE3ZS/3	Deep River Radio Club	215-	A- 7-	2160
W6ALQ/6	(nonclub group)	237-	A- 4-	2133
W8OAJ/8	Mercer County Radio Assn.	206-	A-10-	2079
W6ELQ/6	(nonclub group)	225-	A- 3-	2025
W6HGY/6	Whittier Radio 50 Club	196-	A-16-	1989
W8ODJ/8	Buckeye Short Wave Radio Assn.	209-	A- -	1881
W8TOL/8	(nonclub group)	203-	A- 3-	1827
W7AH/7	Motorola Radio Club	202-	A- 4-	1818
WØFX/Ø	Jamestown Radio Club	202-	A- 9-	1818
W8VVL/8	Queen City Emergency Net	199-	A-17-	1791
WØDEP/Ø	(nonclub group)	169-	A- 4-	1746
W2TIO/2	(nonclub group)	193-	A-12-	1737
W8GYM/8	Lima Area Amateur Radio Club	167-	A- 9-	1728
W8MFB/8	Thumb Area Amateur Radio Assn.	279-	B- 7-	1674
W7LEV/7	(nonclub group)	248-	B- 5-	1638
W6JQX/6	(nonclub group)	242-	B- 3-	1614
W2OCD/2	(nonclub group)	176-	A- 3-	1584



W2CCR (left) and W2FTY operated W2CCR/2 at Grand Island, New York, entered the eighth highest score, 2012 points, in Class 1B. Seven storage batteries powered the BC-696 and ARC-5 rigs, HQ-129X and home-built 12-tube super during the 24-hour FD period.

December 1952



Frandy Johnson, first licensed as WNØKFH in May 1952.

I have not been "licensed since 1952"

That's N1FJ in the foreground at age 14.

His dad is on the right.

W1QMF/1	Newington Amateur Radio League	149-	A- 9-	1566
WØDVL/Ø	Northeast Iowa Radio Amateur Assn.	148-	A-15-	1557
VE1DN/1	Dartmouth Amateur Radio Club	146-	A- 7-	1548
WØCOZ/Ø	El Paso Radio Club	251-	B- 7-	1506
W4SKT/4	(nonclub group)	210-	B- 3-	1422
KH6WO/KH6	Honolulu Amateur Radio Club	204-	B-25-	1374
VE2BB/2	Lakeshore Amateur Radio Assn.	126-	A- 6-	1359
W4VT/4	Mid-South Amateur Radio Assn.	197-	B-15-	1332
W5ND/5	Orange Amateur Radio Club	148-	A- -	1332
VE3RA/3	(nonclub group)	123-	A- 4-	1332
K5NBL/5	(nonclub group)	199-	B- 4-	1194
W3BLA/3	Old Timers of York, Pa.	172-	B- 7-	1182
WØNSN/Ø	Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club	106-	A- 8-	1179
VE1JV/1	Pictou County Amateur Radio Club	100-	A- 5-	1125
W8HKT/8	Southwest Michigan Radio Club	159-	B- 4-	1110
W9IZE/9	(nonclub group)	155-	B- 8-	1080
W7OZK/7	Shywy Radio Club	153-	B- 6-	1068
W8HDQ/8	Morgan County Amateur Radio Assn.	100-	AC- 9-	1029
W8CIA/8	Louisville Amateur Radio Club	109-	A- 4-	981
W7PZ/7	(nonclub group)	133-	A- 4-	972
K5NAW/5	(nonclub group)	159-	B- 4-	954
WØYHN/Ø	Crete Amateur Radio Club	151-	AB- 4-	909
W2QXE/2	Oncida Amateur Radio Club	98-	A- 3-	882
W8VP/8	Cambridge Amateur Radio Club	98-	A- 4-	882
KH6RS/KH6	Maui Amateur Radio Club	141-	BC-10-	855
WØZSI/Ø	Mitchell Radio Amateurs' Club	90-	A- 7-	810
W4MOE/4	Ashville Amateur Radio Club	82-	A- 4-	738
WØKTI/Ø	Prairie Dog Amateur Radio Club	116-	B-10-	696
W3KYR/3	Boys' Club of St. Marys Amateur Radio Society	51-	A- 4-	684
W8URD/8	Radio Club of Case Institute of Technology	48-	A- 6-	657



HAM CRAM, OR THE ONE-DAY TECH CLASS

BY DAN ROMANCHIK, KB6NU

I used to be skeptical of one-day ham radio classes, sometimes called "Ham Cram" classes. After teaching a couple of these classes over the past year, however, I've become a supporter of this method of teaching, at least for the Technician Class license test.

One reason I'm an advocate of the one-day class is that I think a lot of people "learn by doing." I'm not an expert on pedagogy, but my guess is that more people learn by doing than learn by reading or by listening. That being the case, isn't it a good thing that new hams get their licenses quickly so that they can begin doing--thereby learning--more quickly?

Second, people are busy. Tell them that the class is going to eat up one evening a week for six to eight weeks and a lot of them will tell you that they just don't have the time to do it. Squeezing in six to eight hours on a Saturday is, however, something that they can do.

Critics of the one-day classes say that if people just cram for the test, they may learn enough for just long enough to pass the test, but they really don't know enough to be "good hams," whatever that may be. There's some truth to this. It's important not to abandon them once they get their tickets. I encourage all of the students to join a ham radio club and make myself available to answer any questions they may have as they get started in ham radio.

Critics also say that releasing this horde on the amateur bands will create nothing but chaos. Fortunately, I've personally seen no evidence that the hundreds of folks that have taken these classes across the country have created said chaos.

Make Your Next Class a One-Day Class

I would encourage you to give this a try. Make your next Tech class a one-day class. You don't conduct Tech classes? Well, get started! Another benefit of the one-day class format is that it's easier to find teachers since it takes less time for them, too.

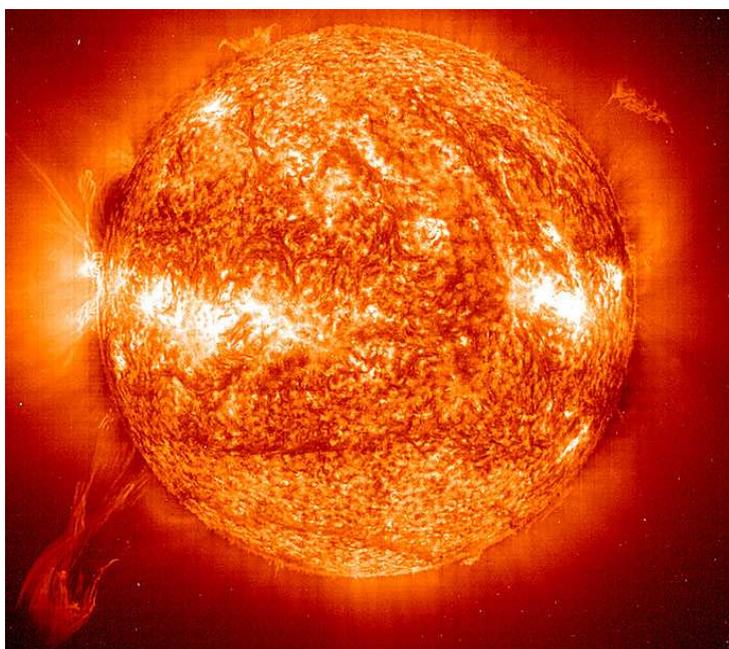
As I mentioned previously, over the past year, I've taught two "ham cram" classes. We've learned a few things along the way.

Perhaps the most important thing is to stress that students should study the material before coming to class. The study guide we use is one that I've written. You can find the KB6NU No-Nonsense Study Guide online at <http://www.kb6nu.com>. You can also purchase a pre-printed version of the study guide at www.booklocker.com/books/3408.html.

Another key is to not get bogged down on a particular topic. Our class runs from 9 am to 3 pm, at which time, the VEs come in and give the test. To cover all of the material, you have to keep one eye on the clock and keep plowing ahead. To help you do this, a set of PowerPoint slides for teachers of Ham Cram Tech classes is available at <http://w9pe.us/>.

We conducted our first class last August. Nine out of twelve passed the test that day; the remaining three passed on their second attempt. In early May, we taught our second one-day class. This time, eleven out of twelve passed.

I am encouraged by these results, and I am planning to make these one-day classes a regularly-scheduled event here in Ann Arbor. Time will tell if these people become active, life-long hams, but so far, so good. If you have any questions about our experience with the one-day class, please e-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



A Twisted Solar Eruptive Prominence
Credit: [SOHO Consortium](#), [EIT](#), [ESA](#), [NASA](#)

Explanation: Ten Earths could easily fit in the "claw" of this seemingly solar monster. The monster, though, visible on the lower left, is a huge eruptive prominence seen [moving](#) out from our [Sun](#). The above dramatic image taken early in the year 2000 by the Sun-orbiting [SOHO satellite](#). This large prominence, though, is significant not only for its size, but its shape. The twisted figure eight shape indicates that a complex [magnetic field](#) threads through the emerging [solar particles](#). [Differential rotation](#) inside the Sun might help account for the [surface explosion](#). Although [large prominences](#) and energetic [Coronal Mass Ejections](#) (CMEs) are relatively rare, they are occurred more frequently near [Solar Maximum](#), the time of peak sunspot and [solar activity](#) in the eleven-year [solar cycle](#).

F

ield Day - June 27th - June 29th !!!



HCRA is ready for Field Day, are you? The park is reserved, the equipment is ready, the cooks are waiting to serve and the band captains are ready to communicate. All we need now to make sure everyone knows how much fun is in store at the end of June.

If you are a regular at Field Day you already know what to expect but if you're new to the hobby or to Field Day here's a quick look at what's in store:

1. **Operate a station.** HCRA will have stations set up on many bands, operating on phone, code (CW) digital (like PSK31) and even FM. You can stop by any or all of these stations and try your hand at operating or logging if you so desire. New to HF? There's nothing like the thrill to talking to other hams across the country or around the world.
2. **GOTA.** There will be a special GOTA (Get On The Air) station set up for new or inexperienced hams. Here, with the help of a GOTA coach you can make your first HF contact and start your addiction to DX.
3. **Food, and lots of it.** HCRA will (for a nominal fee) provide breakfast, lunch & dinner on both Saturday and Sunday. So in addition to a premier operating event you can think of this as a club picnic as well.
4. **Set-up and tear-down.** Get some experience in setting up a ham radio station by pitching in during these phases. Learn how to build antennas, erect towers, run coax, test SWR and assemble stations. What you can learn here will have great application when you erect your next antenna at home. Everyone is welcome, skills are not important, just a genuine desire to learn more about our hobby.
5. **Fantastic location.** A beautiful pleasant location at Dufresne Park in Granby, MA. In addition to Field Day enjoy a fishing pond, playgrounds for the kids and hiking trails
6. **FUN!!!** This is the what Field Day, the HCRA way, is all about. We try to provide a platform at Field Day that will appeal to everyone. Casual operator, new ham, experienced contester, kibitzer, cook or just about anything else we have what you need. There's a reason why more than 50 people show up every year and we truly believe it is

'ALL ABOUT THE FUN!'



So mark your calendar and try to spend some time with your friends on this last weekend in June.

See the latest in this ever changing event at: <http://www.hcra.org>

Special Field Day Raffle



More fun and excitement this Field Day. Not only will you have a great time at Field Day you could go home with a Yaesu FT1802M, 50W, 2 meter compact mobile transceiver.

Only fifty \$5 tickets will be sold so your chances of winning this cool rig are very good. The drawing will be held during the Sunday afternoon lunch at Field Day. Tickets will go on sale at the Tail Gate party, June 6th.

Meeting Location:

Meetings are held at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, 21 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

The church is located across from a Pride gas station.

Parking is in back of the church.
Access is HP accessible.

Talk-in is available on the 146.94 repeater.

Next Meeting:

Friday Night

June 6th, 2008

6:00 pm



The Hampden County Radio Association
P.O Box 562
Agawam, MA 01001



PLEASE HAND CANCEL