

Zero Beat

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association http://www.hcra.org Meetings Held at: Feeding Hills Congregational Church **21 North Westfield Street** Feeding Hills, MA



March, 2002



Let's see what you've built, your latest project, or exotic Mode!

Join Us on

WIN PRIZES!!!

and Our Guest Speaker will be

George Rancourt, K1ANX

with some of the latest additions to his restored radios collection

For Up-To-Date HCRA News and Information, remember to visit the HCRA Club Website

http://www.hcra.org

If you haven't been there TODAY, then it has probably changed since the last time you visited!



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Win BIG Prizes at this month's meeting!

There are only a few days left for you to complete your project and bring it out to the HCRA's 1st Annual Show & Tell. What do you have to do? What can you win? Well, last things first. You could

win a Yaseu hat, a tool kit, or a \$50 gift certificate to HRO, that's what you can win. And all you have to do is create, build, use, operate something and demonstrate it at the meeting. It could be some small pet project you've built, perhaps a rig inter-

face, or code practice oscillator. It could be some software you've either modified or written to work with our hobby. It could be a demonstration of a new mode, SSTV, PSK, anything like that will do just fine. There will be two classes, novice and expert, so you won't be competing against a complex project if it's your first time. So, what are you waiting for? Christmas? That's too far away, so bring it down March 1st and perhaps go home with a nice prize. And to those who say, "I'll never win" I say, "you won't if you don't" - enter that is! See you Friday, this should be a lot of fun.

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This Month's Guest Speaker

Our own George Rancourt, K1ANX will be this months guest speaker. George is well known both locally and nationwide for his restorations of R390A receivers and a knowledgeable source for military radios of all kinds. George will be bringing one of his ARC-5 radios to display, the ones used in the B-17 bombers from WW-II. In addition, George will be showing a new addition to his col-



lection; a Russian copy of the ARC-5. Come prepared to hear both some history and interesting anecdotes about these radios that were a big part of the Allied forces over 50 years ago. I wonder if he turns one on if it will hear Tokyo Rose?

Field Day 2002



It's just around the corner, and it's coming fast! This year's date is June 22-23, so plan your month accordingly! Dufresne Park in Granby, MA has been reserved again, it's a great site with lots of potential. An ad-hoc FD committee has been organized, but anyone and everyone is welcome to join in. So far we have volunteers for; software and site. John - Kx1x and Iry - W6IS: web page.

Jim - KK1W; power- Dave, AA1YW; media, Dave - KB1MU; band organization, Larry -WB1DBY; food, Norm -W1BMK, antennas, Larry - K1ILZ. The Crew DX liaison is Mike - KB1FWN and site mapping by Steve - KB1GHC. What band or mode would you like to operate this time? This year's effort will again be a class 5A, but a major push will be put on to man the stations 100% of the time. There are some rule changes this year that will encourage newer operators to have more fun! If you would like to throw your hat into the ring and help out with any area at all, give one of us a call. We did excellent last year and had a great time doing it. This year, with even better equipment, a great site, good propagation and lots of preparation and participation I'm sure we can do even better.



The IRLP Project

Last month I ran a short article by Gary, AA1UE, concerning the Internet Radio Linking Project. I hope the article piqued your interest, it certainly seemed to be of interest to everyone at last month's meeting. In case you missed Gary's article, here's a quick review of IRLP, what it is and what it does.

The Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP in most circles) quite simply is a method of connecting amateur radio stations worldwide via the internet.

There have been (and still are) other methods of doing the same thing, but IRLP is growing by leaps and bounds. Presently there are almost 400 amateur stations (called nodes) world wide, and I've seen numbers that almost two more nodes are being added every day! What can you do with it? Well, for starters, with just a 2M or 440 HT you could have a QSO with a ham in Australia. Or check into a net in Denver, CO. Or work the International Space Station. Or... whatever you can imagine!

Win a \$50 gift certifi-

cate by creating

something as simple

as projects like these!

The question was asked at the February meeting, "should the HCRA activate an IRLP node?" The answer was a resounding "YES" from the members present. As noted in the February board meeting minutes, the HCRA board voted unanimously to move forward with the project. The software and interface card have been ordered, Carol, WA1LGU, generously donated a PC that will be perfect for the node. The HCRA board donated \$90 to the project and John, KX1X will allow use of his broadband internet connection for the node. How's that for a start! Like most HCRA ventures, this one is progressing with the cooperation of all involved, without any committee chairperson or leader. John has volunteered to handle the software part of the project (it's Linux based, and he's the guy for that!), I will work with John on the RF part unless someone else would like to do it (hint, hint!) and anyone (and we mean ANYONE) is welcome to take any portion and run with it. What we will need most when it gets on the air are operators to use it, play with it and most of all have fun with it. Isn't that what this hobby and this club are all about?



Stay tuned to the club web page for the latest progress. Our hopes are we will be up and running, at least in a test mode, sometime in April or early May. Lot's depends on how quickly the software and interface arrive, and that won't be any earlier than the end of March. In the mean-

time, detailed information can be found on the IRLP web site http:// www.irlp.net) and you can listen to the Denver reflector at http:// www.live365.com/stations/253404 lf I seem excited about this project, that's an understatement. I really feel this is a great marriage of ham radio and the internet that is really going to take off. It will open up new horizons for local Technician class or apartment bound hams that weren't there previously. It should be "really kewl"!

HCRA's 1st QRP DXCC?

How are you doing with your QRP DXCC award? I'm sure there are others, but Juergen, DK1TM is one of the first to achieve it. 102 countries, with 5W or less, in a few short months. Congrats to Juergen, has anyone else made it yet? Drop me a note if you have, we love to recognize your achievement in Zero Beat.



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HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To: HCRA OFFICERS

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ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • DENVER, CO • OAKLAND, CA PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR • SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA M.T.A.R.A. 17thAnnual Amateur Radio Hamfest Sunday, March 10, 2002 Amherst Regional Middle School 170 Chestnut St. Amherst MA Doors Open: 7:00 AM for Vendors, 9:00 AM for Bargain Hunters Admission: Adults: \$5 Children under 12 - FREE!, Tailgating: \$5, Tables (8 ft.) \$15 For more info or Table and exam registrations contact: Bob Meneguzzo - K1YO 3 Dairy Lane, Southwick, Massachusetts 01077 (413) 569-0320 k1yo@arrl.net

CONTEST CORNER

ARRL International DX, SSB Great Lakes QSO Party North American Sprint, RTTY Wisconsin QSO Party Alaska QSO Party Virginia QSO Party CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB Mar 2, 0000z to Mar 3, 2400z Mar 9, 1700Z to Mar 10, 0400Z Mar 10, 0000Z to 0400Z, Mar 10 Mar 10, 1800Z to Mar 11, 0100Z Mar 16, 0000Z to Mar 17, 2400Z Mar 16, 1800Z to Mar 18, 0200Z Mar 30, 0000Z to Mar 31, 2400Z

Get On The Air

			(all times local)	
Mon., Tues, Thur, Fr	ri 19:00	00 National Traffic System (NTS) Net 146.94 (W1TOM)		146.94 (W1TOM)
Sundays	08:45	Weste	rn Mass Emergency Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Mondays	19:30	HCRA	10m Net	28.375
Tuesdays	19:30	Slow S	Scan TV (SSTV) Net	145.130 (PL 71.9hz) (KD1XP)
Wednesdays	19:30	0 MTARA Info net 146.94 and 147.000 (link) (W		146.94 and 147.000 (link) (W1TOM)
	20:00	MTA	RA Swap net	
	20:30	MTAF	RA Tech net	
Thursdays	21:00	Weath	er Net (ncs K1PAI Roger)	1 st Week of the Month 147.09
				Every other week 147.000
Club Meetings & Testing Sessions				
1 st Friday of the mor	nth	19:30	HCRA Club Meeting	Feeding Hills Congregational Church
1				21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
3 rd Monday of Janua	3 rd Monday of January, April, July, and October Amherst Machine		Amherst Machine	
	KD1XP License Exams Amherst, MA		Amherst, MA	
				13-665-2211 or 145.130 Repeater
			http://www.kd1xp.8k.com	
3 rd Friday of the mor	nth	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building
a			http://www.mtara.org	506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA
4 th Friday of the mon	nth	18:00	MTARA License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium
				Beech St., Holyoke
41-	Contact Dave, WA1DC, WA1DC@pipeline.com			
4 th Sunday of the mo	nth	19:00	NOBARC club meeting	Pittsfield MA (146.91 for talk-in)
	11			

W1NY ON THE AIR

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!!!

Get Your **Zero Beat** Electronically each month

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

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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 John, Kx1x, Dave, KB1MU, or Jim, KK1W, to be added to the eZB only list.



Mike, KB1FWN, CrewDX's representative on the W1NY Field Day committee this year, rests after an 80 Q hour at last year's FD.



THE W1NY WAY Dufresne Park. Granby, MA June 21, 22, 23 5 stations plus the new GOTA station are planned For this year's event. What band/mode do YOU want to operate?



A series of local Skywarn training for the area has been announced. As more are confirmed we will post them right here. Place:

Place:

American Red Cross Greater Hartford Chapter 209 Farmington Ave. Farmington, CT

20 March 2002 Weds. 1900 to 2200 EST

06 April 2002 Sat.

(host Southwick Emerg.

09 May 2002 Thursday

1900 to 2200 EST

Managmnt Agency)

1200 to 1500 EST

Place:

01 April 2002 Manchester, CT Manchester Community College 1900 to 2200 EST Frederick W. Lowe Jr. Building

Place:

Southwick, MA Town Hall Offices Auditorium 454 College Highway Ma. Rt 10 U.S. 202 Southwick, Ma.

Place:

Walpole, MA Walpole Town Hall

Place:

Warwick, RI 28 May 2002 Tuesday Tollgate High School (Cafeteria) 1900 to 2200 EST 05/28/2002 7-10PM Tollgate High School (Cafeteria)

American Red Cross NH West Chapter House Court Street Keene, NH

23 April 2002 1830 to 2130 EST

Place:





25 April 2002 1900 to 2200 EST

Pomfret Community School 20 Pomfret St. Pomfret Center, CT

13 May 2002 1900 to 2200 EST

Place:

Brockton VA Hospital Building #5 Psychiatric Service Conf Rm. (2nd Floor) Brockton, MA Place: Tollgate High School Cafeteria Warwick, RI

22 May 2002 1900 to 2200 EST

29 May 2002 1900 to 2200 EST





BSA Venture Crew 510

NE1C - New England's #1 Crew





Visit Crew DX's 100% youth designed website: http://www.qsl.net/crewdx

	BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR
2/28	Crew Meeting at Pioneer Valley Council Office @ 7:00
3/1	HCRA Club Meeting (No Crew Meeting) @ 7:30
3/10	MTARA Flea Market
3/28	Crew Meeting at Pioneer Valley Council Office @ 7:00
3/30	Scantic Spring Splash, Public Service
4/6	SkyWarn Class, @ 12:NOON, Southwick Town Hall Offices Auditorium
5/31, 6/1&2	Webelos Woods Weekend W1W Special Event Station at Camp Moses
6/21,22,23	Field Day '02

NEW ENGLAND ORIENTEERING CLUB -- ORIENTEERING SCHEDULE Spring 2002

These events are sponsored by the NEW ENGLAND ORIENTEERING CLUB. Instruction and rental compasses are available at each event. For info, call Paul & Sue Pearson 860-745-7457. (PRPearson@AOL.COM)

All events have courses with difficulty and distance ranging from beginner to advanced levels: $S = String-O for young childrenW = White = Beginner (1-3 km)Y = Yellow = Novice (2-4 km)O = Orange = Intermediate (3-5 KM)G = Green = Advanced (4-5 KM)R = Red = Advanced (5-7 KM)$		
Sun 24 MarchROCKY NECK STATE PARKEAST LYME, CTBeginner EventRegistration & interval starts:10 AM to 1 PM Map: 1:10000, 10 ft Courses: W,Y,ODirections: From Rte 95, take exit 72 to park entrance. Follow Orienteering signs to parking.for info: Stuart Sharack 860.442.6914(sharack@aol.com)course setter: Stuart Sharack		
Sun 14 AprilMASHAMOQUET BROOK STATE PARKPOMFRET CENTER, CTRegistration & interval starts: 10:00 AM. to 1 PMMap: 1:10000 scale, 2.5mCourses: S,W,Y,O,G,R.Directions: From Interstate 84 in CT, Exit 69 to CT Route 74 east to USRoute 44 east. Approximately 13 miles and follow Orienteeringsigns.From Interstate 395, Exit 93 to CT Route 101 west to Route 44 west. Follow Orienteering signs to parking.For info: Jim Henderson 860.742.5272(Bandjhenderson@cs.com)course setter: Jon Howes 860.529.3184 (jhhiker@cox.net)		
Sun 5 MayMETRO. DIST. COMM. RESERVOIR #5WEST HARTFORD, CTUSOF - National Orienteering Day event MDC - Recreation Discovery Day at W.H. reservoirWEST HARTFORD, CTRegistration & interval starts: 10 AM to 1 PMMap: 1:10000, 5 mCourses: S,W,Y,O,G,RDirections : From I-84, take exit 39 to Rte 4. Go east on Rte 4 for 2 mi. toMDC gate. Follow Orienteering signs for 0.5 mi. to parking lot. course setter: Charlie DeWeese (DeWeeseCC@aol.com)		
Sat 1 June GAY CITY STATE PARKHEBRON, CTCTTrails Day eventRegistration & interval starts: 10 AM to 1 PMMap: 1:10000, 5 mCourses: S,W,Y,O,G,RDirections : From I-84E, take exit 59 to Rte 384 and take exit 5 in Bolton to Rte 85 S to park entrance in Hebron.Follow Orienteering signs to parking.for info: Dave Boone 860.228.3875course setter: Clinton Morse 860.875.6256 (cemorse@snet.net)		
For information on orienteering, please visit these web sites:		
What is Orienteering? www.williams.edu:803/Biology/orienteering/o~index.html		
Orienteering in western MA (and CT) www.the-spa.com/Tony.Maniscalco		
New England Orienteering Club www.newenglandorienteering.org		
United States Orienteering Federation www.us.orienteering.org		

It is with great sorrow that HCRA notes the passing of a past member, Al fred A. DeCoteau, KA1ZUK, sk

Call for Volunteers, Boston Marathon

Greetings fellow radio operator,

Because the list of previous participants is not available, this is being distributed as many ways as possible. I would like to make sure all the hams that want to can participate. I'm sorry but we do have to limit it to people that are 18 years or older due to BAA requirements. Please put this in your newsletters and announce it on your nets. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. TNX and 73s Steve, W3EVE

Amateur Radio Communications at the Boston Marathon

Radio operators are making preparations to support the 106th running of the Boston Athletic Association Marathon on April 15, 2002. Amateur Radio plays a vital part in supporting runners before, during, and after the marathon. This year we have a combined organization handling all phases of radio support; start area, length of the course, and finish line. Positions are available starting early in the day in Hopkinton, along the route at aid and water stations, and later in the day at finish line operations in Boston. You can choose which activity you will be involved in or work multiple locations. In Hopkinton, we will assist with coordinating the multiple parking areas and providing for start line safety. Along the 26 mile route, assisting the Red Cross at aid stations with supply requirements and ambulance dispatch. Runner pick up buses traveling the route will have hams on board. At the finish line, working with the medical teams and shadowing officials.

You will need a two meter or dual band HT, extended antenna, and extra batteries for participation. Training sessions and procedure sheets will be available before the event. We will try to accommodate your needs within the confines of the event set up.

An on line sign up form and more details are available at http://cpsg.amateur-radio.net/. You can mail in the BAA volunteer form available at the BAA web site http://www.baa.org. The volunteer for can be found by clicking 106th Boston Marathon and then click Volunteering. Fill it out and mail it in as instructed, but put in the Race Day section: if you want to work the start, check radio team; if you want to work the finish, check ham radio (finish only); and if you want to work the course, on the blank line with specify under it, put "ham radio (course)". We will be doing a mailing at the end of February with more details. You will be able to change your mind at that time as well. Feel free to contact Steve Schwarm, W3EVE at (508)384-7697, w3eve@arrl.net. Please no calls after 9PM or before 8AM.

(HCRA members may advertise for sale or wanted ads in Zero Beat for free, on a space available basis)

For Sale **Radio Shack HTX-10**

10m AM, FM, SSB xcvr 25w SSB & FM, 7w AM mobile radio with mike, manuals, and power cord Hardly ever used, looks like new. I now have a FT817, so I don't need this radio any more. Asking \$75 (almost ¹/₂ price), perfect for now while 10m is hot!

Juergen Malner, dk1tm@prodigy.net, 413-789-6200

The HCRA wishes to Thank Carol, WA1LGU

For the kind donation of a Pentium class computer The computer is now being used as the website for pictures and old ZeroBeat issues pointed to by www.hcra.org It will also soon be used for the IRLP project.

If you were first licensed 25 years or more ago and are currently licensed you are eligible to join the national QCWA. Yearly dues are \$20.00.

Why should you join? There are several reasons. I would like to make you aware of one that I believe is worth the \$20.00 a year. It is the College Scholarship Endowment Program. This year 11 \$1000 and 5 \$1500 scholarships are available to QCWA members' children and/or grandchildren. These children must also be hams to apply for these



scholarships. Members of the HCRA are actively encouraging new hams by conducting classes and supporting the Venture Group. Joining QCWA is another way for you to help encourage young people to join our hobby. I will be at the March meeting and will be happy to give you more information about national and local

QCWA activities or answer any questions you may have about joining the QCWA. Larry, K11LZ



What's a "show & tell"? It's a chance for you to show off your latest creation and win some nice prizes to boot. It's part of our "March Madness" meeting and should be a lot of fun! You've still got a lot of time to prepare, so read on...

To enter, just show up with your project, explain it and wait for the judges decision. There will be Novice and Expert classes. All entries will be judged by an independent panel of electrical engineers from MIT & RPI :>) Entries will be judged on originality, construction quality and usefulness. So, bring your home brewed whatizit, your latest software creation, new mobile mount, portable PSK31 station, Tesla coil, etc. and let everyone else see your handiwork.

First prize in each category will be a \$50 gift certificate to HRO, Second prize a tool set and Third prize a Yaesu Hat. Judges decisions will be final and you MUST bring your project back home with you!

HCRA board Meeting Feb 7 2002

Held at the home of Irv Slitzky W6IS Members present Irv W6IS, Larry K1ILZ, Larry WB1DBY, Norm W1BMK, Jim KK1W, Dave KB1MU, Mike KB1FWN, and John Kx1x.

Vice President K1ILZ: Larry proposed that we have a member of the board who is responsible of introducing newly licensed ham at each meeting. The board members agreed, but noted it would be difficult when the board is not always aware of new hams. John Kx1x was suggested, since most new hams are also venture crew members. Larry asked permission to discuss QCWA membership and its benefits at the next meeting. The board agreed that this would not cause any problems.

Treasurer N1AEH: Not present due to his recent surgery. A get well card was circulated and signed by all present.

Secretary KB1MU: Dave distributed an updated club rooster. Dave will also generate a rooster and donors list for posting on the HCRA web pages. Dave also noted that he had received a bill for the club PO Box. Since the Treasurer was not present, Dave agreed to pay the bill and receive reimbursement later.

Program W6IS: The following meeting speakers are lined up:

- Mar Show and Tell. (See below)
- Apr Lantzakis WB1HKE, Space shuttle, and space station with display
- May Chuck from HRO will speak

June will be the tailgate party followed by the annual elections.

With speakers for the remainder of the year all set, the board congratulated Irv for a job well done.

Membership W1BMK: Norm is still not receiving from the League the listing of new licensees. As Norm receives this information, he will mail a package containing latest issue of ZeroBeat, the new tri-fold flyer, and a membership application to each new ham in the HCRA area.

ZeroBeat KX1X: Cutoff date for articles is Mar 16

Technical N1INB: Not present. Members who participated in the Jan VHF sweepstakes will be encourage to also forward their scores, so that Stan can tally the clubs results.

At Large WB1DBY: Copies of the new tri-fold flyer were distributed. A few changes will be made and copies printed for the clubs use. (See Membership section.) Arrangements for the Mt Washington etc bus trip are proceeding.

Old business: The address for the club call W1NY has not yet been changed.

New business: The prizes for show and tell will be \$50.00 first prize, \$20.00 for second prize and yet to be announced items for the third prize. There will be two classes of entrants Expert and novice.

The IRLP project (Internet Radio Linking Project) was discussed. All board member agreed this would be a great project for the HCRA to embark upon. It will give new hams who do not have the license or equipment to work HF and DX a taste of the international aspect of amateur radio. A site for the node has been selected. Some equipment has been donated, and a cash donation of \$90.00 has been received. This would be a simplex node initially.

Field Day

The field day site has been reserved. The kitchen has not yet been reserved. It was agreed that the HCRA would operate as a 5A station as last year, with emphasis on 24-hour operation, rather than more stations. The bands we plan to operate are:

75-meter phone,

40-meter phone and CW

20-meter phone

15-meter phone and CW

The club will attempt to have a field/antenna layout prepared prior to field day. Mike KB1FWN will be the venture crew liaison The former novice/tech station will be replaced with a Get On The Air (GOTA) station. This station would not be limited to Tech bands, and can be moved from band to band as propagation, equipment, and etc change. This station will encourage not only new licensee, but would allow hams who are not able to operate HF normally to "Get On The Air". Currently the HCRA plans to use 10 and 75 meters for this GOTA operation.

Respectfully submitted David W. Isham KB1MU

This month: Hampden County Radio Association's Club Meeting will be on Friday March 1st, 2002 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 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

This Month's Meeting, Friday, March 1st: Show & Tell Bring in your kits or projects. Win a prize! George Rancourt, K1ANX To talk about Selected pieces from his restored radio collection

PLEASE HAND CANCEL