



Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. - our 47th ARRL affiliated year

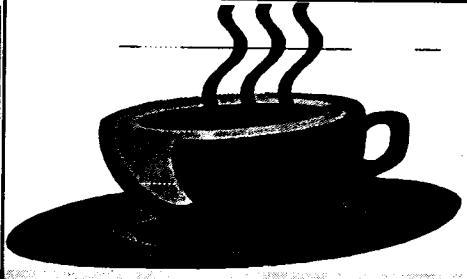
February 1995

Volume 3 Issue 6

H.C.R.A. Notes.....

Last month's HCRA meeting featured an interesting presentation about the comet that struck Jupiter last summer. Everyone who attended seemed to have a good time, 45 people attended the meeting, so it was nice to see a good turn out. Special thanks go out to You the Members who attended the meeting! We would like to thank Michael Skruskie, who gave the presentation and kept everyone well informed.

We have many exciting meetings planned for the rest of the year. Some of these meetings include; Radio Astronomy, Antennas and DX. We also are planning our annual June Banquet/Social. We are planning either another Buffet or, if the membership wishes, to have it at a restaurant as we did in the past.



This month will feature an excellent presentation on the new RCA DSS satellite system. Also, donuts and refreshments are now 25 cents.

June is also the time for the election of officers. We will need four new board positions, a president and a vice-president. We may also have a one-year position available. So, if you want to serve on the board but don't want to do it for two years, this may be just what your looking for. Remember, anyone can be appointed or anyone can volunteer. They can be very exciting and fulfilling.

Next HCRA Meeting.....

The next Hampden County Radio Association will Take place on Friday night February 3, 1995 and will feature an exciting meeting on the new RCA DSS television satellite system and other satellite systems. Our speaker will be Scott Vining from Infinity Satellite Systems, Inc. of Enfield, CT. It should be an entertaining evening. Doors will open at 7:30 and the meeting will start promptly at 8:00 P.M. Bring your friends!

**Feeding Hills
Congregational Church
JCT of Routes 57 & 187
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts**

The next board meeting will take place on February 9th, 1995 and will be at Barry Mason's QTH. If you are interested in attending, please ask Barry N11JK for directions at the next meeting. Remember, anyone can attend the board meetings.

DX-Caribe Cruise 95....

Yaesu U.S.A. is pleased to announce its sponsorship of "DX-Caribe Cruise 95" the second in a series of Amateur Radio theme cruises, to be held June 18-25, 1995.

Sailing from Aruba on board Dolphin Cruise Line's SS Ocean Breeze, passengers on DX-Caribe Cruise will make stop over in Dominica, Barbados, Martinique and Curacao, before returning to Aruba. While on board in international water, two fully equipped Yaesu HF stations will allow Maritime mobile operation. At each shore stop over, optional shore excursions will provide the opportunity for passengers to operate "DX-Pedition" style from beach locations; currents plans are for operation from three HF stations plus 6 meters, OSCAR, and 2 meter EME (moonbounce).

Entertainment on board the ship, besides Dolphin's exciting slate of evening shows, includes special presentations from Roger Balister, G3KMA (Director of the RSGB IOTA Program), Charles K. Epps, W6OAT (Director of the Northern California DX Foundation), Gordon West, WB6NOA (renowned Instructor and Writer), and Yaesu's cruise staff. While at sea, a wide variety of workshops and other activities will cover many areas of Amateur Radio activity.

Information regarding DX-Caribe Cruise 95, including booking of ship and airline passage, is being handled exclusively by Landry & Kline, Inc., 1390 South Dixie Highway (Suite 1207), Coral Gables, FL 33146 (Telephone 800-448-9002).

Happy Valentines Day!



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FCC inaugurates Wireless Telecomm Bureau...

The Federal Communications Commission on December 1, established a new Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, as part of its continuing reorganization that began last summer.

The Commission said that the new Bureau will handle all FCC domestic wireless telecommunication programs and policies, except those involving satellite communication. Its functions include all activities of wireless telecommunications providers and licensees.

The new Bureau also will serve as the Commission's principle policy and administrative resource with regard to spectrum auctions.

Regina M. Keeney was named chief of the wireless telecommunications bureau; Ralph Haller, formerly chief of the Private Radio Bureau, and Gerald P. Vaughn, are Deputy Bureau Chiefs.

Keeney, a Harvard Law School graduate, spent 9 years as Senior Republican Counsel for Communications to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Both of Keeney's parents are licensed Amateur Radio operators. Her father, John Markey, W2AAW, said "Gina grew up with amateur radio in the house. We are an enthusiastic family. I often her *QST*, and especially the 'Happenings' column, when she visits."

Keeney said the goals of the new Bureau are to promote economic growth, foster competition, and enhanced accessibility of emerging technologies to consumers, as well as to "foster efficiency and innovation and the allocation and licensing of the

electromagnetic spectrum."

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will have seven divisions; the new Private Radio Division, along with the Licensing Division, will handle Amateur Radio matters at the FCC. The FCC said that Private Radio Division would "project demand for existing and possible new communications requirements and services."

The Commercial Radio Commission will deal with cellular services, personal communication services, paging, and specialized mobile radio and air ground services.

The Enforcement Division will propose and develop rules and policies for wireless services; the Auctions Division will conduct spectrum auctions; the Licensing Division will handle paper work for all services; and the Customer Services Division will be responsible for providing technical assistance related to applications and licensing.

The Private Radio Division will handle, in addition to Amateur Radio, the following: mobile radio services, such as; public safety and aviation, personal radio services, point-to-point microwave, antenna tower clearances, and the radio operator examination program.

1994-95 H.C.R.A.

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Coffee + Donuts: Don + Betty Mish
Zero Beat: Kevin Hilinski NR1L - Editor, Mike Griffin N1FOW & Barry Mason N1IJK - Zero Beat Assistance (folding & stamps)

President's Message

A soggy hello to all! Usually by this time of the year we are either complaining about weather, or enjoying the skiing. This winter a new option is learning the Australian crawl. Actually, if you would like to try something different on Monday nights, come join the HCRA 10 meter net. We've started slow, but are growing fast, and even had a check-in from Spencer, MA. from an Amateur just tuning through the band! It's fun, and informal, so tune in Monday nights at 7:30 Eastern (not UTC) on 28.410 MHz. On January 14, I was invited by Bill Burden, WB1BRE, to an ARRL New England Division Cabinet meeting. In attendance was Bill, the Division Director, Warren Rothberg, the Assistant Director, as well as the Division Section Managers and Assistant Managers, and other guests. This was a great opportunity for me to see how the League works on a more local level. There was a complete agenda, part of which included, plans and strategic objectives of the league for the near future, the attempt to introduce an International Amateur License, an enhanced PRB-1, repeater coordination and spectrum management, the current state of FCC enforcement, the results of a reader questionnaire, committee reports and more. As you can see, there was quite a lot of information available, and I found it quite worthwhile attending. Thanks again Bill! I of course would be happy to relate particulars of what was discussed with anyone interested (I took 4 pages of notes!).

I also wanted to mention that I had received a complement regarding Zero Beat from Warren Rothberg who reads quite a few club newsletters and feels Zero Beat is definitely one of the best both in content and form. Way to go Kevin!

I would also like to thank Michael Skrutskie once again for his presentation last month about the comets. It was a very informative meeting and the photos that he brought were A+.

We are going to have another interesting meeting this month, this time on TV satellite systems. Even if you don't plan on getting into something soon, the information presented should be worth obtaining. See you at the meeting. 73, Barry N1IJK

Amateurs set records on 5.7 GHz and 144 Mhz...



A new overland distance record has been reported on the 5760-MHz amateur band. On November 12, Al Ward, WB5LUA, in Allen, TX, and Ron Stefanski, W9ZIH, in Malta, IL, worked over a 738 mile path. The previous overland record was 614 miles, set by N6CA and XE2/N6XQ.

Writing in the North Texas Microwave Society *Feed Point*, Ward reports working W9ZIH on the evening of November 11, with S9 signals on 432 MHz. Then they tried unsuccessfully to work on 5760-MHz, having previously worked each other on the bands in between. They tried that night, and the following morning without success.

In cooperation with Greg McIntire, AA5C, and W9ZIH, the first record breaking contact took place, between WB5LUA and Roger Schneider, WB9OJR, of Green Valley, IL, who had joined the effort. The distance was 633 miles. AA5C and WB9OJR also connected at 630 miles.

Continuing the effort, about 3 hours later, at 1652 UTC, WB5LUA and W9ZIH made the 738 mile contact, and AA5C worked W9ZIH at 733 miles all contacts were on two way CW.

Al Ward said "It is really nice to know that there are people active on the microwave bands who are ready to go when the band open, and also to know that our equipment, which as only worked out to 250 miles under normal conditions can actually work when the bands open up."

Down on 2 meters (practically "dc" by comparison!), a new troposphere ducting, continental distance record has been reported. on November 5, Rene Shaw, WB4MJE, of Big Pine Key, FL, and Serge Szpilfogel, VE1KG, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, worked over a 1687 mile path.

The previous record of 1468 miles was set by W5WXC and K1RJH, and had stood since October 1968.

WB4MJE is crucially located for this work, at the southern tip of the Florida Keys.

Information on these two accomplishments came from Al Ward, WB5LUA, who maintains VHF/UHF North American distance record information for QST's "World Above 50-MHz" column. Records on bands from 144 MHz to 678 THz are published in April QST each year.

News Release...

The Vibroplex Co., Inc., the "Oldest Name in Amateur Radio", has been acquired by S. Felton "Mitch" Mitchell, Jr., of Mobile, Alabama. Mitch, whose amateur call is WA4OSR, is an extra class amateur first licensed in 1963, and he is the first ham to own the Company. Vibroplex will be moving all of its operations back to the south, where its roots began. All current Vibroplex products, including the Original bug, the Iambic, the Vibrokeyer, and the Brass Racer keys will continue to be produced.

Mitch says "The Vibroplex name is older than amateur radio and has come to represent the one piece of equipment in the ham shack that symbolizes the interest, camaraderie, and esprit de corps of the world-wide ham radio community. Even in this age of electronics, the heritage of Vibroplex has been passed down from generation to generation in the service of professional and amateur radio operators who demand quality. I intend to continue the unmatched Vibroplex quality, feel, simplicity, and performance." And, Mitch adds, "...be watching for some new, exciting products from Vibroplex in the near future."

The new address of Vibroplex is 11 Midtown Park, E., Mobile, AL 36606-4141. The new voice telephone numbers are 205-478-8873 and 800-840-8873. The new FAX number is 205-476-0465.

Space Below For Use By HCRA Executive Members Only!

Do not write below this line. Any violation of this statement may result in membership termination.

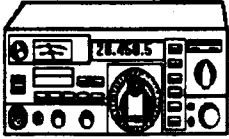
Hi Hi.....

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February Meeting TV Satellites



Friday February 3, 1995

Doors Open at 7:30 P.M.

Meeting will begin at 8:00



RCA DSS Satellite Systems

Attention HCRA Members:

Consider bringing a friend this month and introduce them to our club and all that we offer. We would love to see the membership grow even more! Remember, you can always place a classified in *Zero Beat*. This is, of course, free to all HCRA members. Give all the information to Kevin, NR1L, or mail it to the P.O. box. Don't forget, it may not make it to publication on time if it is mailed to the P.O. box.

Amateur Radio Specialties

76 Ogden St.

Indian Orchard, Mass. 01151

Antennas and Amateur

Related Accessories

Stan Bates N1INB

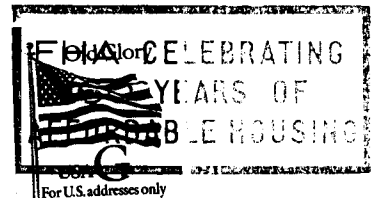
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