

6-91

Our 44th ARRL affiliated year
Special Service Club

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Serving Greater Springfield, MA

Vice President's Comments

Well, here we are, at the beginning of yet another month. June will be a very active month ham-radio wise. We have the banquet on Friday, June 7th, which should be a great time. The banquet will begin at 6:00 (social hour) with dinner at 7:00. At 8:00 we'll have the club business meeting which you may attend even if you haven't purchased banquet tickets. David Sumner, K1ZZ, will be our guest speaker. On June 8th-9th is the June VHF contest. There is no official club entries for this contest, but it's a good chance to dust off your VHF/UHF gear, or to test out that piece of new equipment you bought at one of the recent fleamarkets.

June 22nd and 23rd will bring this year's Field Day. If you're new to the club, the HCRA always puts on a great show at Field Day. Last year we ran 9 transmitters, although we'll probably run less this year, and concentrate our efforts on the bands we do run. We'll have our resident chefs again this year to cook great food, and I heard from some SKYWARN members that we're going

to have good weather again this year! We hope you can plan to come and help operate, or cheer on those who are operating. No matter what your skills, we'll need you to be there.

The board of directors is already starting to put together the schedule of meetings for next year. We are working on plans for a special meeting in September which we hope you will enjoy, and we're looking for ideas for other meeting topics for next year. Your ideas are most welcome!

We're also looking for some volunteers to help out next year. If you're a VE and would like to help out with club affiliated VE sessions, let us know. The club does not have a list of the current members who are VE's, so we don't know who you are-you have to tell us! If you think you might be interested in becoming the ZeroBeat editor, please get in touch with me (Bob, NQ1C).

It's now getting into thunderstorm season... So please don't take any chances with lightning-Play it safe! I hope to see you at the banquet or at Field Day, and if not, well have a good summer!

73, Bob

Next meeting will be June 7th, 6:00pm at The Warehouse? in Holyoke, MA

Next board meeting will be June 13th at K1CPJ's house

Club Officers

President—Stan Hilinski, KA1ZE
Vice President — Bob Lafleur, NQ1C
Treasurer—Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
Secretary —Jim Sebolt, N1DUY

Directors

Charlie Dunlap, K1II Bob Cohen, K1CPJ
Larry Lemoine, N1EPE Fred Stefanik, N1DPM
Steve Nelson, WA1EYF Frank Potts, NC1I
Cliff Junkins, W1UWX Scott Cohen, KA1QAS

Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted as long as credit is given to Zero Beat

Calendar of Events

June 7	June Banquet
8-9	June VHF contest
13	Board Meeting
22-23	Field Day

Advanced Receiver Research



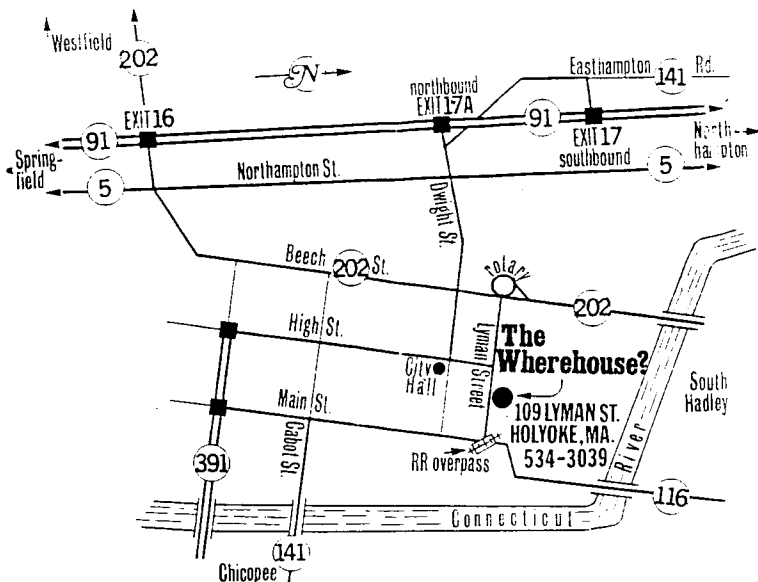
Box 1242 • Burlington, CT 06013 • 203 582-9409

Receiver Type	Range MHz	M.F. (dB)	Gain (dB)	Contra. (dBm)	Device Type	Price
P28VO	28-30	<1.1	5	0	OGFET	\$29.95
P50VO	50-54	<1.3	5	0	OGFET	\$29.95
P50VVG	50-54	<0.5	24	-12	GAASFET	\$79.95
P144VO	144-148	<1.5	5	0	OGFET	\$29.95
P144VOA	144-148	<1.0	5	0	OGFET	\$79.95
P144VVG	144-148	<0.5	24	-12	GAASFET	\$79.95
P220VCG	220-225	<1.8	5	0	OGFET	\$29.95
P220VGA	220-225	<1.2	5	0	OGFET	\$37.95
P220VVG	220-225	<0.5	20	+12	GAASFET	\$79.95
P432VCG	420-460	<1.8	5	-20	SiGeMOS	\$42.95
P432VGA	420-460	<1.1	7	-20	SiGeMOS	\$48.95
P432VVG	420-460	<0.5	6	-12	GAASFET	\$79.95

Receiver Type	Range MHz	M.F. (dB)	Gain (dB)	Contra. (dBm)	Device Type	Price
SP28VO	28-30	<1.2	5	0	OGFET	\$59.95
SP50VO	50-54	<1.4	5	0	OGFET	\$59.95
SP50VVG	50-54	<0.55	24	+12	GAASFET	\$109.95
SP144VO	144-148	<1.6	5	0	OGFET	\$59.95
SP144VOA	144-148	<1.1	5	0	OGFET	\$87.95
SP144VVG	144-148	<0.55	24	+12	GAASFET	\$109.95
SP220VCG	220-225	<1.9	5	0	OGFET	\$59.95
SP220VGA	220-225	<1.3	5	0	OGFET	\$87.95
SP220VVG	220-225	<0.55	20	+12	GAASFET	\$109.95
SP432VCG	420-460	<1.9	5	-20	SiGeMOS	\$82.95
SP432VGA	420-460	<1.2	7	-20	SiGeMOS	\$79.95
SP432VVG	420-460	<0.55	6	-12	GAASFET	\$109.95

Congratulations to all those who participated in the January VHF contest! Your points helped the club obtain a great score!

Directions to "The Wherehouse?"



RUTLAND ARRAYS

FOR THE FINEST VHF/UHF YAGIS

Eleven Outstanding Models Available

50 MHz thru 450 MHz

Designs by K1FO and K3IPW

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"WE DESIGN AND BUILD ANTENNAS FOR PERFORMANCE NOT PRICE"

Loop yagis: 903 MHz 33 elements \$89 kit, \$109 assembled and tested. 1296 MHz 45 elements \$89 kit, \$109 assembled and tested. 1296 55 element "Super Looper" \$99 kit, \$124 assembled and tested. 2304 MHz 45 element \$75 kit, \$89 assembled and tested. Element and hardware kits also available for above loop yagis. 2 and 4 way power dividers. Discount on complete arrays. Solid state linear power amps, 13vDC: 1296 8W in, 35W out, \$315. 1W in, 20W out, \$265. 4W in, 70W out, \$695. GaAsFET preamps: 902 .8dB NF, \$90. 1296 .8dB NF, \$90. 2304 1dB max NF, \$140. SHF systems no-tune transverter kits with 144 MHz IF now available for 902 through 3456. Write or call for complete catalog. DOWNEAST MICROWAVE, Bill Olson, W3HQT, Box 2301, RR1, Troy Maine, 04907. For information and orders telephone (207) 948-3741.

Deerfield Hamfest Report

By

Jeffrey J. Duquette K1BE

My son Nick, Fred Stefanick, and I started our journey at 4 am, to get there early for the "bargains". Deerfield hamfest usually has a cornucopia of goodies to pick and choose from. I saw many club members there rifling through the boxes! My impression was a lot of real junk and anything interesting was high in price! I brought a shopping list, but went home with most of my money. Did locate some civil war relics and got them cheap. The stuff I brought was embarrassing until I looked around at what else was there. The cheap plastic toys and ceramic class failures were on sale, but several vendors had XXX rated porno videos! As long as you pay, no one seemed to care what you sold. Not a class act. I don't know if I'm getting old or it's my new glasses, but I noticed a seedier element at the hamfest.

We should announce a simplex FM frequency to listen on so that club members can be located. People camp out the night before on the fairgrounds. Everyone said they froze during the night. Here are the directions to Deerfield in case you're going in October.

Mass Pike East to exit 10, Take route 290 to route 190. (10 minutes after getting on route 290) 190 to route 13. Then route 101. route 43 will take you almost to the fairgrounds, listen on the repeater or look for cars overladen with ham radio junk and follow them.

TIDBITS FROM PAST ZERO BEATS-1958

W1JWV had his roof antennas damaged by high winds...W1STR (now N1PF) profiled in an issue. Has a son five and a daughter 3...The club won for ever and ever the gavel from the Hartford Club in the VHF SS...W1LRE and W1KZU having nightly ragchews on 430mhz...W1FAB received his phone WAS certificate...A Tapeone Converter was the big raffle prize. (What was it???..ed)...President was W1WFL, VP was W1QWJ, secretary, W1STR, and treasurer, who else, but W1LRE...Club name badges made available for .35 cents each...W1DGJ has a new NC-300...W1LRV has a new Valient and an HQ-170...

RG 8 U Coaxial Cable Sale!

A limited amount of high quality foam core RG 8 /U is now on sale. Local radio stores sell a poorer grade RG 8/U for 42¢ per linear foot. This coax is brand new, with 96% shielding. Here's your chance to save money and improve performance.

Price:

500 foot roll reduced! \$125.00

That's only 25 cents per foot!

730-2584 or 584-9005

Limited quantity

For Sale:

2 meter Junior Boomer (modified) \$75.00

Rutland 6 meter **R4-50**

Used only 6 months, assembled, \$100

Bought the BIG 6 meter array!

Masts: stainless steel, schedule 80

5 foot \$30.00

9 foot - \$45.00

Miscellaneous lengths of RG8 /U, with UHF or N connectors installed. Raising my tower and I don't use spliced cable. All used about 6 months.

32 to 37 foot lengths with UHF connectors

\$10.00 each

35 foot length with N connectors

\$15.00

Jeff K1BE 786-7856

Days: M-F 730-2584

TIDBITS FROM PAST ZERO BEATS-1971

Ed Goldberg, WN1PLS joins up... W1KUE, Tom Barrett honored for his many years of service to the club... Gary Potts, WA1ECR is VHF contest chairman... Vince Falardeau, WA1GVV has an antenna raising party... Two meter repeaters are on the air in Western Mass... Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, (HCRA Life member!) guest speaker on VHF receivers... Tube gear still the order of the day, but solid state starting to take over... Bob Phoenix, WA1DNB, is SEC, a job he holds for 15+ years... SSB becoming preferred HF voice mode. What to do with all those AM only receivers?... Jack Sheehan, K1NJC operated the VHF SS with club call WA1BTU from atop Mt. Tom... Bill Hall's home brew transceiver in February QST earns K1RPB Director's award... Bob Stephens, W1MM retired from GE... Ed Stefanick, WA1CYK building an antenna tuner on six meters using Gonset Communicators...

Amateur Radio Exam Sessions

The MTARA conducts a VEC test session the fourth Friday of every month at the Holyoke CD/FD headquarters. From Springfield, take I-91 to exit 17A, the headquarters is on the right just before the traffic light. Park behind the headquarters and go in the back door and down the stairs. These sessions will be held during the summer months, too. Contact Bill Sample, NJ1E, at 567-7301 for more information.

The Northern Berkshire ARA hosts exams too. They're flea market is on August 11 in Dalton and you can spend money on goodies after you successfully pass the test. I do not have any other dates readily available here, but contact Dick Goodman at 413-458-8452.

Remember, you can contact the American Radio Relay League at 203-666-1541. Bart Jahnke is in charge of the VEC program, and will know the latest information on test sites.

New Technician

Nick Duquette, age 9, passed his Technician license at our flea market test session in April. Watch out for a second signal during the VHF SS from K1BE!

19 VHF Sweepstakes 91 Report

By
Jeffrey J. Duquette, K1BE

Here are the final results, as printed in QST, for the 1991 VHF Sweepstakes. Many thanks to everyone who helped to put the HCRA over the top! Hampden County RA took **third** place in the country, in the **Unlimited Club Category!** Score was **542,228** points with **84** entries! This is a new club record for points and participation. You should feel proud!

WINY took **#2** multi-operator in the country, **#1** in New England section, and in

contacts by band took: 50 Mhz -**#1**; 144 Mhz -**#1**; 220 Mhz -**#2**; 432 Mhz -**#1**; 902 Mhz -**#4**; 1296 Mhz -**#3**!!!!!!

KA1ZE took position **#5** on the top ten list of single-operators in the country! NM1K took 3rd, and 5th (FN32), and KA1VED took 6th in the single-op, QRP (low power) category in the country! NQ1C was the top single-operator scorer in Western Mass! WA1VRH took Connecticut section!

Our friends at Quaboag Valley ARC took the gavel in their first ever VHF SS in the Local Club category. Congratulations! Mt Tom ARA took **#6** in that category!

Eastern Mass section looks like the place to enter from if you crave an easy first place. The scores are dismal! Are we certain that's the densely populated part of Massachusetts?

The 1992 contest is shaping up to be the biggest club participation ever. Many club members have been adding new bands or tweaking their stations for maximum scoring potential. New award categories for "limited multioperator" and "rover" have been instituted. Perhaps Paul, KA1WER had something to do with this! You can operate 4 grids from this area easily. Start in the North at FN33, move to FN41 in Connecticut/Rhode Island, then West to FN31, and finally back home to FN32, where the warm cocoa is kept next to the rig! The club will have to print new summary report sheets. What to do with the existing stockpile?

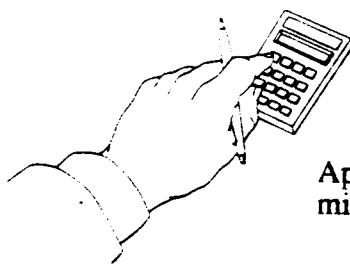
The new Technicians will be on in force next January. What should we have for a goal? Break the 100 entries barrier? Go for one million points? Or just have a lot of fun!!!!

May QST has an excellent article about setting up a high performance UHF or microwave station. Make sure you read it so you'll be ready by January! 73 magazine has been running a series of excellent articles on VHF-UHF systems and setups. The ARRL publication, **UHF-Microwave Experimenter's Manual** is a must read for the serious enthusiast. Don't forget the VHF & UHF contests at other times of the year, especially June 8 & 9, 1991, and September. These are not club competitions, but the band conditions are usually better than what we see in January.

1991 VHF SS Scores

Western Mass Section

NQ1C	25,440
NA1W	14,940
WA1MBA	11,240
W1RIL	10,120
K1BE	8,325
K1II	4,100
NA1X	3,872
KA1TBS	3,792
W1CJK	3,690
KC1OR	3,196
WA1ZUH	2,988
NM1K	2,964
N1DOP	2,925
WA1EEC	2,700
WA1YCA	2,432
N1ABJ	2,210
KA1WER	1,520
N1HKF	1,368
WA1POB	1,243
KA1OXQ	1,216
AC1T	1,188
KC1TV	1,134
K1NWE	1,072
W1NMQ	924
N1PF	763
N1DUY	714
W1KK	712
W1UWX	621
WA1EYF	553
WA1WRM	518
K1JG	490
K1MAL	416
KA1TBS	415
W1UPH	405
KA1WER	357
K1JAO	321
K1JDL	318
KA1DNX	304
KA1HTK	288
N1FUS	264
NJ1E	248
N1EVE	240
WB1GLZ	222
W1ALL	219
K1UOR	198
W1EQO	196
KA1MPS	195
KA1TFU	183



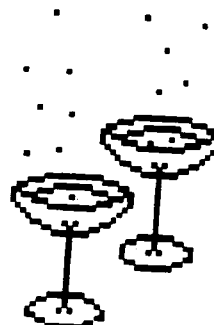
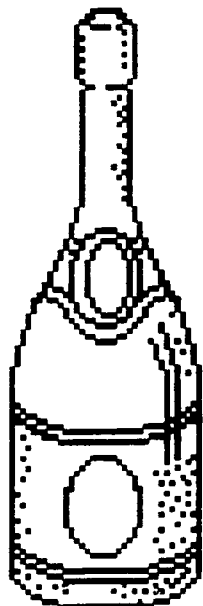
Apologies to anyone we listed incorrectly or missed entirely!



WA1SMH	180
W1DGJ	154
N1IBR	140
KA1WER	136
N1CDR	120
KA1WNQ	110
KA1VWW	100
KB1MU	98
N1CQT	96
N1GXR	81
N1EPE	72
W1VNE	64
K1BXE	63
KC1CC	60
N1FMT	51
KA1WNQ	34
KC1OR	30
N1HKF	15
W1DKY	15
WB1FIQ	12
WB1GNQ	4
W1NY (AC1T, K1GX, N1DPM, N1GVV, N1GXR, NC1B, NC1I, WA1UQC)	214,866

Connecticut Section

KA1ZE	124,850
WA1VRH	52,962
NM1K	5742
K1FO	5,508
KA1VED	2,304
K1WVX	1,785
K1CPJ	1,250
K1CYD	960
K1MVR	790
NR1L	780
K1CYD	564
N1AEH	54
N1GVV	46
N1EHS	4
NR1L (+KA1QAS)	6,144
KA1QAS (+NR1L)	4,160
KA1TMV (+K1CPJ)	264
KA1QAR (+K1CPJ)	156



Fleamarket VE Results

VE testing at the flea market was crowded, busy, and very very warm. Two sessions were held with the first one starting at 10:00am and the second session starting at approximately 12:45pm. Thanks to all the VE's who worked the session. VE's were WC1O, WC1L, N1ABJ, WB1I, WK1S, and WM1B. We all "earned our keep". Thanks also to N1DUY for "guarding the door" so that we could take a short breather between sessions. The four VE's who worked the afternoon session left at 2:45 and adjourned to the "Main Moon" Chinese restaurant for lunch. Incidentally, as we left the building two gentlemen approached the door with money in hand asking "where is the flea market?"

The results are as follows:
Candidates: 36; Tests given: 56;
Upgrades: 16; Element credit: 10.

73, Jeanette, WC1O

VE Exams

The HCRA will not sponsor any VE exams until further notice. If you are a VE and would like to participate in the HCRA VE program, please contact one of the board members.

HCRA Meetings

First Friday of each month at
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Center of Feeding Hills
Intersection of routes 57 & 187
Doors open at 7:30 PM
Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM

Next Meeting
June 7th 6:00pm
The Warehouse? Holyoke MA
(see map inside for location)

Business meeting at 8:00 open to all members

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.
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Editor: Bob Lafleur, NQ1C

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