

ANNOUNCEMENTS Don't go wandering over to The Chalet next Friday 'cause there's no meeting. Instead, get on your best bib and tucker Saturday night, April 1st and be sure to check in at the Red Barn, Willimansett with your XYL at 7. The occasion is our Spring Banquet complete with Special Steaks, prizes, and a full evening of fun. By now all club members should have made their reservation; if you haven't, get in touch with any of the exec. committee immediately.

The F.C.C. exams are scheduled for Friday, March 31st, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Springfield Technical High School, (Spring St. entrance) Room 325. Even if you haven't made previous application, you probably can be taken care of at this late date, so come anyway if you want to give your class A or B a try.

LAST MEETING Speaker was Mr. Charles Mac Connell, and his topic "Quartz Crystals".

This was the occasion of the drawing for the two receivers everyone was expecting to get. The Motorola A.M. & F.M. went to Bob Lieson, KFV, while the boudoir A.C.-D.C. went to Rog Corey's grandmother.

We also had a door prize, the donation of Frank Cushing, AWW, Art Zavarella, MNG, taking home a new 100 watt soldering iron.

Two new members were unanimously elected; Alfred Haberman, SWL of Holyoke and James Kozak, SOZ of Westfield.

NOTICES Executive Committee member Gil Williams, APA, the Hazardville DXer has resigned his office (planting season's coming on). We are happy to report, however, that Tom Chapman, WJCK, is taking over for the balance of his term.

The next exec. committee meeting will be at the home of Pete Pedersen, 39 Lincoln St., Chicopee Falls, Friday, April 21st. Lincoln St. is off Broadway opposite the playground.

A R R L BULLETIN The ARRL is looking for League members who are interested in OES appointments. Objectives are definite experimental work on any frequency above 50 mc aimed towards development of VHF, UHF, & SHF equipment and technique. If interested, send a request to the League for more info as to requirements and get a sample of the OES bulletin.

ARRL ACTIVITIES Another DX contest is but a memory. This one will not soon be forgotten.

The bands were hot most of the time. And 80 meters really produced for the CW gang. Twenty-three countries were worked on 80 by this station including such good ones as ZS6, LU, HC and a couple of KH6's. There were plenty of new countries to be had for the average DX hound. Those stations that were active in last year's contest improved themselves by more than the quota set forth in my last column. That will just go to make it harder for next year, Hi!

The following is a list of the scores that I know of so far. If you are not listed, please see me or drop me a line as soon as possible so that I may submit the club score to ARRL.

	CW		Phone
WLJYH	207,820	W1CJK	39,216
WLEQB	64,974	WLPDF	
WLAPA	10,458	WLJYH	2,592
WLAVK	1,326		
WLMVF	3,762		
WLRZG	210		
WLRHU	39		

The next big undertaking will be the Field Day on June 24 and 25th. Plans are already underway for this activity. This is one event that is designed to challenge the ability of hams, such as our club group, to get together and operate under conditions that may be expected during emergencies. This affair requires the cooperation and help of every one of our members. Let's all get in there and pitch. More details will be forthcoming from your Field Day committee.

How many of you have a Code Proficiency Certificate? WLAW sends CP qualifying runs twice every month. The schedule is in QST.

PREXY'S CORNER **FIELD DAY** - In a very short time now we will again be taking part in the ARRL Field Day, this year to be held on June 24-25. Last year we tried every possible method to get a 100% turnout and the affair was such a success that nearly everyone is now acquainted with the pleasures and pains of a Field Day and will be anxious for this year's date to roll around.

The consensus seems to be that this year's affair should be organized on the basis of several smaller groups, each to concentrate on the particular phase of the activity in which it's members are most interested.

For example: Assume that Pete Pedersen is appointed chairman of a VHF group. Pete will contact everyone whom he knows is interested in VHF work and probably have a few pre-Field Day meetings to make plans, and line up equipment. Vic Paounoff might have a low frequency group and he would follow the same procedure for those interested in running up a big c.w. score.

It is hoped that there will be more than one group in each category to stimulate some competition between groups within the club.

At this writing, the chairmen of the various groups have not all been chosen, but on Wednesday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. there will be a meeting at WLJYK's house for the chairmen and anyone who is interested in forming a Field Day group is invited to attend. There is no limit to the number of groups which may be formed.

As we mentioned before, the chairman of each group will pick men to work with him, but even with this system, there will be quite a number of members who may be overlooked. Therefore, we would like to make it clear immediately that every member is not only invited, but urged, to join any group that will suit his fancy. A Welcome Mat will be an essential piece of equipment for every group.

Names of the group chairmen will be announced as soon as possible. Tell the XYL now that you will be busy June 24-25 and start dressing up that emergency equipment.

JOTTINGS A new op was heard from WLNY's station during last Thursday's West. Mass. phone net. Those that were on the net recognized Ernie, MSN at the controls.

We see from QST that AGM's ham directory of doctors and dentists is nearly ready to go to press. That lucky guy's just back from a Florida vacation, during which time his local police chief was enjoying his TV.

Worcester County Radio Assoc. invites us to two meetings on TVI reduction. The first has now gone by but the second, by George Grammer, is on April 11th. It's at the South Works Assembly Hall of the American Steel & Wire Co. on Millbury St., Worcester. Contact Bill Ham for more detailed directions.

TECHNICAL TIPS Since our regular Technical editor is in Boston temporarily, we figured that this was a good chance to sneak in some ideas on operating conveniences which may, even if not directly applicable to your rig, suggest further thoughts on the subject. For example: have you ever discarded the idea of using separate final amplifiers for different bands, because you didn't want to switch the high voltage leads? Try leaving the high voltage and bias connected to all the finals and just switch the primaries of the different filament transformers. It works fine and the stages with unlighted filaments have no effect on the final in use. It only takes one set of meters, too.

For any type of operation where there is an appreciable length of time between transmissions, it is handy to put a foot switch in the H.V. plate transformer primary. In our case we use a micro-switch to control a 110 volt relay which in turn supplies voltage to the plate supply. Incorporate this in your push-to-talk circuit

if you would rather and save on the light bill.

A Monitone or some similar device is almost a necessity to the C.W. operator, but if you don't have the extra power supply or parts, a lead from the grid resistor of any unkeyed, resistor-biased stage in your transmitter to the AVC circuit of your receiver will do away with the objectionable clicks when you use your receiver for a monitor.

Several Vibroplex owners have had difficulty slowing their dots down. One chap filed a notch in the spring which worked quite well - until the spring broke and the whole thing fell apart. If yours is too fast, increase the distance that the arm travels when the paddle is pressed to the right and adjust the dot contact accordingly.

For those who are satisfied with the 3500 cycle response that an FIA carbon mike will give, but still don't like the appearance, try putting the carbon button in an old torpedo-type crystal mike head; it just fits with a piece of friction tape as a wedge and when put together again, you'd never know the difference. A single flashlight cell is best for a FIA type button. They begin to hiss with anything over $4\frac{1}{2}$ volts.

Maybe you'd thought of all these things, but we know one guy who ripped the whole rig apart only to find that the plug was out of the wall. Some of the simplest things are the ones we think of last.

TRAFFIC The following is a radiogram sent me by WLBVR the other evening:

By WLRHU "THE WEST MASS 80 METER NET WOULD BE EVEN BETTER THAN PRESENT IF WE HAD COVERAGE OF OTHER TOWNS REPRESENTED BY MEMBERS OF OUR CLUB STOP IT COULD BE THAT 80 CW WOULD BE LESS DESTRUCTIVE OF TELEVISION PROGRAMS THAN TEN METER PHONE AND SOME OF YOU 10 METER PHONE BOYS COULD BE LEARNING CW TRAFFIC HANDLING PROCEDURE AS WELL STOP WHAT SAY GANG QUERY REGARDS
PERCE WLBVR
ROUTE MANAGER WMN 80 CW "

Remember, that is not I talking now.

In these days of increased TVI and BCI, with all frequency assignments becoming more and more crowded, it is even more important that we operate our stations in the Public Interest. I do not mean the amateur group as a whole, but every station must be able to justify his operation. One way in which this can be accomplished is to handle third party message traffic. Everyone can surely spend a few minutes an evening on his section net. Why not report into the section net, learn how to handle traffic, build up your code speed, and have fun while you're doing it.

We can't just wait for an emergency to come in order to operate in the Public Interest; we sincerely hope that emergency may never come, but we must be ready for any eventuality, and must operate our station in the Public Interest, Convenience, or Necessity at all times.

Come on now, gang. Why not live up to your license and join us? We will be glad to show you how to handle traffic; we will be glad to QSR to any speed you want. We want you. Come on. The net meets at 7 and 10 PM, EST, Monday through Friday on 3725 kcs, and we'll see you tomorrow.

73,

Russ WLRHU

SWAP COLUMN Interested in 200 to 300 w. Mod. Trans. & 866As. Call Spfld 8-1664
WIRFU.

Have Johnson "Q" for 10 meters - Swap or Cash. Also BC458 - Swap for 250 mil 300 V Xformer or chokes. Drop a note to RRX, 197 Whitney Ave., Holyoke, Mass.

Doc Tadgell, ACM, Chief Burp from Belchertown, is looking for a 10 meter mobile phone rig, complete except for mike, antenna & car. Who's got a Xmitter & power supply -- Yeah and a Gonset converter too?

FOR SALE: National NC-80 X Receiver complete with Speaker and instruction book. Tunes 500 KC to 30 MC. Mechanical band spread. Best reasonable cash offer. See or call Ken Gurney, WLSIT, Spfld 8886.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: One set of B & W TVL coils 80-40-20-10 slightly used, in original cartons. Call WLMNG, Spfld 6-9132.

TEN BUCKS Takes my compact power supply-VFO unit with output on 80 & 40 meters. Vernier dial. Russ Bassett, WLAFU, Spfld 6-8046.

WANTED For Field Day Use: 300 volt, 100 mil power supplies and 500 volt, 200 mil generators. Call WLMNG, Spfld 6-9132.

JESSE RICHARDSON, CKJ, has a cellar full of surplus stuff that may be just what you're looking for. Phone him at 4-5955, 103 Norfolk St., Springfield.

NOTE: Directions to the Red Barn

The Red Barn is on the east (right) side of the road running from the Chicopee Falls Bridge over the Chicopee River, straight up the hill and proceeding toward Willimansett. Or from Holyoke, cross the Conn. River at the Willimansett Bridge, turn left past the Willimansett R.R. station and go through the R.R. underpass. Take 2nd right, continuing on up the hill and beyond towards Chicopee Falls, and watch for the Red Barn on the left.