

Z E R O B E A T

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Hampden County Radio Assn., Inc.

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MARCH MEETING At the sound of the gavel on Friday night, March 7th, a quick tally showed that $2/3$ of our membership were on hand for the evening activities, indicating that more than ordinary interest and enthusiasm continues. Five new members joined our ranks making us all, and especially the treasurer, very happy. Bill Rosner presented certificates to the winners of the various classes in the recent VHF contest. Ralph Robinson gave a most interesting report on the results tabulated from the club's questionnaire into what interests the members and what makes them tick. (No, I mean tick--not thiek) Mr. Sluis from Pratt and Whitney Co. gave and illustrated talk on automation and conducted a very lively question and answer session afterwards. Coffee and doughnuts served up by brother Brodeur and his cohorts, drawing of our usual free door prize, and ragchewing brought a busy and interesting evening to a close.

APRIL MEETING The April meeting will be held at the Captain Leonard House in Agawam on April 4, 1958 starting at 8 PM. The feature of the evening will be a talk by Mr. Ernest B. Lewis of the E.B. Lewis Co. of E. Hartford, Conn. The subject of the talk will be "Comparison of Harmonic Crystals to Fundamental Units for Amateur Use." Also, we will have a discussion on some of the preliminary preparations for Field Day by members of the committee. The usual refreshments will be available with our SCM, Mac McKeraghan in charge.

FIELD DAY COMMITTEE The committee is already in full swing on the details leading up to what promises to be the best and most successful Field Day outing enjoyed by our club. From the sample feeler put out at the last meeting, spirit among the members is running high. The tickets for the door prize that were labeled "yes" for expected field day activity show us that we have a nucleus of 35 members on which we can build our plans. The need will soon be for those who would like to help but don't know how, like your editor. Just let yourself be known to the committee and you'll be put on the detail--many hands make light the load. We'll hear more about it at the meeting. Remember these affairs must be fun or they wouldn't be so successful in ham radio activity year after year.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT Latest word from the chief head-counter on the Membership Committee, Bill Kirby, W1BCI tells us that our paid-up membership now stands at 128 members.)q8en 70 m3jg34w h02 stp38s q5 o38 qhe 5yq5 23 j7w5 e9 j7dy 59. Total now stands at 128 members. The total exceed our last year's high total. Seems that we are growing by leaps and bounds--how long before we need a larger meeting place?

PAY-OFF DINNER The Pay-off dinner for the VHF contest participants will be held in the Hartford area on Thursday, May 8th. More details in the May issue of Zero Beat.

N.E. DIVISION At an informal gathering of several influential members
CONVENTION of this organization, held recently, it was decided to
** 1959 ** propose that the Hampden County Radio Assn. sponsor
the 1959 New England Division ARRL Convention. The
drive will be on to work up enthusiasm and bring about membership
approval at the April meeting. The backers of this proposal are pre-
pared to present concrete plans for the necessary groundwork, and
initial financing at that time. ARRL indicates that there has been no
bid for a 1959 ARRL Division Convention as yet, and we have priority.
Let's go gang and sew this hamfest up for Springfield. BCNU at the
1959 ARRL New England Division Convention --- at Springfield.

Publishers Note: As an addition to the above, we would like to
suggest the following as a partial list for commit-
tee assignments for the convention.

Honorary Chairman	Bill Blankenship, ex-W1RDR
General Chairman & Legal Counsel	Walt Ross, W1QUQ
Facilities and Buildings	Ken Hardy, W1DXW
Treasurer	Bob Adolphson, W1NLE
Prizes & Donations	Lou Richmond, W1AVK
Food & Refreshments (Liquid) (Wholesale)	Bill Werenski, W1CJK
Advertising & Solicitations	Hank Baier, W1NY

KNOW YOUR OFFICERS A new member of the Board of Directors, but not new to ham
radio, having been licensed with the call of W1DXW since
1930 is Ken Hardy. A Partner in the general contracting
firm of C. S. Hardy, Ken is the proud father of 2 daughters aged 20 and
5 years. Ken's favorite activity on the air is alternately 80 mtr.
c.w. and 10 mtr. phone.

Our other new member of the board is Dick Stevens, W1QWJ.
Working in the electronics field has not dimmed his interest in ham
radio. Employed by the Telephone Company as State Area Staff, Dick
is concerned during the day with Toll and Special Service problems,
including video, mobile radio and carrier systems. After office hours
his main interest goes to the XYL and son, 12 years, and daughter 9
years and inexorably to the SSB rig on 20 and 75 meters.

Have your eyes been bathering you lately? See W1QWJ!

NEW BADGES You guys what has been chomping at the bit to get yourself
one of dose shiny membership badges ain't got much more wait-
ing. Da badges has been picked out awready and by the tyme
you reed dis dey will be on order.

VHF CONTEST RESULTS Results official!!! We took 3rd place in the national
club scoring. Had all members turned in their scores, we
would have placed 2nd. Did you turn in your score???

CLUB DINNER Due to a surplus in the club treasury, it has been decided
to hold a dinner for the club membership. Baked ham, of
course and free door prizes. Much planning has gone into
this affair and we feel it will be a big success. See you on April

join in congratulating this outstanding member of our club.

NOVICE NET Due to a very generous gift from one of our new members
CRYSTALS: it has now become possible to get 10 Novice crystals for
 the club crystal bank. All 10 crystals will be on the
 same frequency and will be made available to Novice members of the
 club for use free of charge. A net will be established to enable
 participants to make local contacts (strong signals out of the QRM)
 whereby they may practice their c.w. and at the same time learn
 correct net procedures. If it interests enough members a like set-
 up may be established for m.c.w. on 2 meters and/or 6 meters (or c.w.
 for non-Consent Comm. owners.

TVI Part of Hank Baier's job at the Springfield Gas Light Company
TRICK is the tracking down of the few TVI complaints that crop up in
 his mobile radio hook-up with company trucks. Hank passes
 along this tip based upon his experiences in this line, in the possi-
 bility that it may help sometime. It seems that everynow and then
 someone calls the company because they are getting the dispatcher's
 voice loud and clear in their TV set. Because the voice is heard on
 all channels one would suspect a case of simple overload, but the set
 is too far removed from the transmitter, and other local sets are not
 effected. The culprit has been found by Hank to be the common
 lightning arrestor and external ground wire hook-up. The oxidizing
 of the aluminum ground wire and brass screw on the arrestor set up a
 perfect oxide rectifier, with the ground wire in dry earth (as it
 usually is) acting as an antenna at the frequency of the gas company
 (or possibly your) transmitter. The lightning arrestor acts as an
 effective crystal set. So check those ground wires on your next (?)
 TVI complaint---especially on VHF. The gas Company transmitter is in
 the 35mc. range.

ANOTHER The first annual Zero Beat Dinner was held Wednesday eve.,
NIGHT OUT March 26, 1958 at the Yankee Pedler in Holyoke. Presiding
 over the affair was ye olde editor Tom Shea, W1HYO, who
 offered the initial toast to the continued success of the paper and
 its staff. Department heads and contributors present were:

Tom Shea, W1HYO	Editor
Howard Cutting, W1JWV	Editor
Bob Gordon, W1KUL	Publisher
Eunice Gordon, W1UKR	Publisher
Tom Barrett, W1KUE	Publisher
Bob Coburn, W1JJO	Young People's Column Editor
Art Zaverella, W1MNG	CD Editor
Dick Stevens, W1QWJ	Technical Topics Editor
Ward Ashe	Editor of Clicks & Chirps Column
Norm Forest, W1STR	Correspondence Secretary
Bill Rosner, W1RFU	VHF Editor

Also present by invitation of the staff were club President Hank
 Baier, W1NY, and club Treasurer Wes Thayer, W1LRE (to pay the check,
 of course, some said). With Eunice there representing the distaff
 side the conversation naturally was on a high plane--meaning we
 didn't have a stag party affair. And because the club treasury was
 footing the bill, it was unanimously agreed we would pay for our own

fire water. The table prize was won by W1JJO who says it was the first time in his life that he ever won anything of consequence for free. Everyone agreed that a good time was had by all and the dinner was a fitting reward for efforts expended to make the paper what it is now, or seems to be. If the drug store gets the copies all done, we will enclose a copy of the picture taken (with the door prize) in each issue of Zero Beat.

CALL LETTER Most of you have recently received a letter from the
LECEMSE PLATES Cape Cod and Island Amateur Radio Assn. relative to House Bill #2222, which will soon be up for action in the Mass. Legislature. If you would like to see this bill passed, don't forget to write your Senator and Representative. (Names and Address in last month's Zero Beat). Time is short--do it now or it will be too late.

CONTRIBUTIONS Here is the answer to the several queries about the
TO ZERO BEAT procedure of submitting material for publication in Zero Beat. Technical articles and essay type material follow the same general outline except that diagrams accompanying them must be as simple as possible and yet illustrate all necessary components and details. Manuscripts must be submitted double space, typed only on single sideband. Payment will be made by check for all accepted material on the day of publication at the standard publishers rate of 13 words per minute. Manuscripts will not be returned unless sufficient postage in foreign currency stamps are enclosed. typed on 8 1/2 by 11 unlined paper with 1 inch borders and must be

CIVIL Sector 4-A is in need of a few more operators for its Head-
DEFENSE quarters radio station in N. Wilbraham. Anyone willing to serve please call Bob Gordon, W1KUL, at St 3-6974 for particulars. The towns of Monson and Palmer will soon be in operation in the 4-A net, bringing the total to 8 cities and towns operational out of the 12 in the Sector.

NEW In keeping with the expanding scope of Zero Beat, we have de-
COLUMN cided to introduce a new regular column in next months issue. Its continuance as a regular feature will depend entirely upon its acceptance and support by the members. The new column will be headed "Letters to the Editors." Letters, notes, postcards, etc. (that are printable) will be expected and excepted. Letters that seem to express typical attitudes or that are unusual in nature or character will be considered for publishing. All letters must be signed to be published, but at the request of the author his name will not be disclosed. Letters must be from club members past or present (to allow former members to tell us why they no longer belong). Naturally the editors reserve the right to delete, censor or otherwise edit wherever necessary to comply with the libel and slander laws of the Commonwealth and Federal Govt. Letters criticizing the editors, publishers, or paper will be published (in small type--we are shrinking some in battery acid now.) Due to space limitations we must ask that letters be limited to 30,000 words or less. Address all letters to: Letters to the Editors; Dept. 73, Sect. 8, Desk 0; Zero Beat Monthly Rag; 432 Megacycle Drive; Upper Sideband, Timbuktu.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING The ever increasing attendance at our regular monthly meetings points up the need for larger quarters. It was suggested that a Building Fund be started to provide us with our own home.

NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE Next month's issue will contain several technical items and a few small construction projects for use in your shack. Scheduled so far are:

1. A transistorized c.w. monitor using no transformers designed and built by K1CYD. It was built into a used Screts tin and cost only \$1.85 for all new parts--including 35¢ for the Screts he used for a sore throat.
2. A 24 hour electric clock to change any 12 hour electric clock to a 24 hour clock, removing only the case and hands and putting on a simple attachment. Gear network available from Radio Shack at about \$2.05 plus postage.
3. A transistorized VFO for 8-9 mc. excitation (2 and 6 meters) built by K1CUC on a patented design by K6RXW. Using batteries and a commercial hyproid coil network it is as stable as any crystal. Total cost -new except for the cabinet and less batteries---- \$16.85.

More about these features next month.

NEW PATENT Art Collins, W0CXX was recently granted Patent No. 3,141,593 on a revolutionary new coupling system for matching your final plate circuit to an antenna. A special adaptation involving two such networks connected end to end was also granted Patent No. 6,283,185.

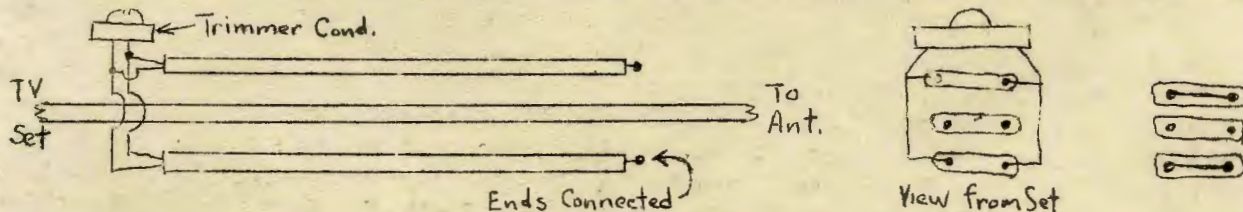
PUZZEL CORNER This month's prize goes to Charlie Condon, K1CUC, for submitting the earliest postmarked correct answers to last month's puzzlers. The prize will be given Charlie at the next meeting. The response to last month's column was very good and the answers were about 85-90 percent correct on the letters and cards received. The correct answers were:

- #1. 12 rungs (the boat rose with the tide and so did the ladder)
- #2. 12 hours---or 13 jumps if you will.

Here is today's trouble:

- #1. In Chicago there is a butcher 29 years old, 5'7" tall, who wears a size 16 shirt and size 10 shoe. What does he weigh?

EDITOR GOOF DEPARTMENT In last month's Zero Beat we printed a TVI trap circuit for 6 meters given to W1RFU by Mr. Hallenstein of the FCC. Within the week we received a correction from Mr. Hallenstein for which we are grateful. (We also now know someone reads Zero Beat.) The following is the circuit as it should be.



Lines shown separated for illustration. Flat sides of the three pieces should be in contact.

Slide trap along antenna line for best rejection.

DON'T MISS YOUR QST Every month some member's dues in the ARRL come due for the year. If yours are due soon, it behooves you to get that payment in early and not miss an issue of the league magazine QST. The ideal way to get those dues paid is at the club meeting where the treasurer will accept payment for you. The dues will be forwarded to League Headquarters for you at a saving of stamp and check costs. Also 50 cents is retained by the treasurer for the club; so you save, the club benefits, and the continuity of QST for your files is assured.

WHAT KIND ARE YOU?

Are you an active member, The kind that would be missed	Do you ever voluntarily, Help at the guiding stick
Or are you just contented That your name is on the list?	Or leave the work to just a few, And talk about the clique?
Do you attend the meetings, Mingle with the flock	Come often to the 'Meetings' And help with hand and heart
Or do you stay at home, And criticise and knock?	Don't be just a member, But take an active part.
Do you take an active part, To help the work along	Think this over, member, You know right from wrong,
Or are you satisfied to be, The kind that just belong?	Are you an active member Or do you just belong?