

APR 78

THE HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASS'N. Inc.

ZERO BEAT Issue 4

President	Jeffrey J. Duquette	K1BE	569-6739
Vice President	Bruce Felper	WALPUX	(203) 232-1128
Tresurer	Steve Shore	WALZEV	(203) 232-1128
Secretary	Larry Soltz	WB1CJH	567-3444

NEXT MEETING

Friday, APRIL 7, 1978

Jay Rusgrove from the A.R.R.L.

Topic: Evaluating Receiver Performance

Doors open at 7:30 PM Meeting starts 8:00

Feeding Hills Congregational Church,

Intersection of Routes 57 and 187,

Feeding Hills Mass.

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CLUB MEMBERSHIP IS \$5.00 FOR 12 MONTHS. SEND CHECK TO BOX 346,
SOUTHWICK, MASS. 01077. OR PAY THE TREASURER AT THE CLUB MEETING.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The role amateur radio has played since the beginnings of wireless communications has been important. I won't take the space to recite all of the contributions that hams have made to the radio/electronic arts. What I do want to say today is that we have been leaders for many years. As American amateurs, we have led the world of hams in numbers, technology, and ability. The world wide census of hams now shows more of a parity in numbers, though. What I think we should continue to pursue is QUALITY! We are experiencing growth in amateur radio, and with a large influx of newcomers, sloppy habits develop. (We are all guilty of occasional lapses.) Speak up when an op' makes a mistake, and explain politely to them the better way of doing things. Be an example of the best amateur operator you can be. Avoid "CB" jargon, and other childish ways of expressing yourself. Expect quality and you'll get it.

A new board and club officers will be elected in June. I hope you'll consider putting yourself forward. No great brains are needed, just enthusiasm and love for amateur radio. We need everyone pulling a little bit to keep our club active, and to maintain the quality I've been discussing.

73,

Jeff K1BE

MEETING SCHEDULE

April is our last general meeting where we can interact and exchange ideas. Hope to see you there and at our last two meetings, which are special.

April 7 Jay Rusgrove, the "pathfinder" from the ARRL, will speak on evaluating receivers. A good technical talk, if he can find the church! QSL card raffle will be drawn, with the winner to receive a nice prize. Picture of all our QSL cards will be shot and sent into QST.

May 5th- Our annual Flea Market! Flyer in this issue explains all. Tell your friends.

June 2- Our final meeting of the 1977-78 year. This will be our banquet. Election of the new set of officers. Awards, prizes and fun as we re-cap the entire season. Don't miss out on this. Details in the June ZB.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Enclosed in this issue is an ad for our May Flea Market. We'd appreciate you passing it on to your friends. Permission is granted to Xerox or make copies of it to distribute... WBLFJK, Walt, passed his technician. He did a good job as net control on the Mt. Tom machine during the snowstorm that cancelled our March meeting... Illiterate? we can help! Write for information. ...Don't forget to mail/bring in your QSL card for our April meeting.... Jeff, K1BE, did a talk show about amateur radio on station WDEW. Lot of interest shown in cards and letters... Our club has a lot of new members. Make it a point to introduce yourself to unknown faces at club meetings. You'll make a new friend and the newcomer will feel more welcome... Get your want ads into ZB early, especially for the June issue... Hams passing the Amateur Extra exam after March 24th can no longer request specific calls. 1X2's will still be made available, but strictly on a progression basis; no special requests... If the FCC drops club calls, should we keep W1NY? How would we do it?... The ARRL has requested expansion of the 80 meter Novice band by 25 khz. (3675-3750 vs 3700-3750) Hope the FCC sees it their way... Are you bringing in goodies for our Flea Market? You'll get free table space as a club member. Doors open at 7:15, first come, first served. We'll use the parking lot if need be, weather permitting... K1LCC made about 7,700 QSO's. The HCRA group must have been responsible for about 700 of them...

FIELD DAY

As you all know, this year members of the HCRA and the MTARA will have a choice of which field day to attend. Ours is going to be a low-key, quiet affair. Mt. Tom will be doing it up BIG, with a good chance to win. So that you can make an intelligent decision, we are printing this copy of the MTARA FD schedule.

Saturday 2 pm Set up equipment. (Club officers excused from getting dirty.)

FD begins! for every 200 contacts- 1 can of beer
for every 1,000 contacts- op's will be
allowed to go to the bathroom.

6 pm Supper- this will be prepared by the XYL's.
Everyone who's made 2,000 QSO's will
fed. When the XYL's are finished cooking,
cleaning and caring for the OM's, they'll
be allowed to operate. The Novice station
will be needing loggers about that time!
Sunday 4 am Bedtime for all op's that have made 4,000
contacts. All others keep trying.

6 am- Reville. Morning calisthenics will be led by WBLABF.

6:30 am 5 mile run- Backpacks will be supplied by the
club. Rifles are optional

8 am Breakfast for everyone that has made
6,000 contacts. Bread and water for the
non-achievers.

WORKED 25 HCRA MEMBERS AWARD

As you all know the HCRA 10 meter net meets every Monday night on 28.650 Mhz at 8 pm EST. The club has a very colorful award which is given out to anyone who has worked 25 club members. All that is required is that you send in the list of calls, signal report, date and time. Norm Peacor, K1IJU is in charge of issuing the award. His address is Country Club drive, Monson, Mass, 01057. No QSL cards are required.

What we would like to do is to let every club member who's interested earn this award. So for every Monday session in April, we are asking not only that YOU check into the net but that you call your friends and get them in, too! If you've never checked into a net before, it's easy; just wait until the Net Control Station asks for check-ins, and then call. (You should zero beat the NCS frequency.) He'll put you on the list as he recognizes you, and later on call you to give you a chance to talk. After you have all the reports you need, send them off to Norm. These will be presented at the June banquet, which should give K1IJU a month to get them done. (He's a very busy person!) We'll be glad to see you on the net.

QUIZ

1. The ARRL stands for:
 - a. the Amateur Radio Relay League
 - b. All Real Republicans Lose
 - c. American Radio Relay League
 - d. "Truth, Justice, and the American Way"
 - e. Cand D above
2. The word "relay" in the name of the League came about because:
 - a. The founder of the ARRL invented relays to switch antennas, etc.
 - b. Famous foot races were held for years at headquarters
 - c. Passing traffic was an important part of early radio
 - d. Crystal radios used relay buttons.
3. The first president of the ARRL
 - a. was Percy C. Noble
 - b. was Hiram Percy Maxim
 - c. was a famous scientist
 - d. invented a type of silencer
 - e. all of the above except "a"
4. The League New England Division Director
 - a. is Percy C. Noble
 - b. attends club meetings if there's something there to eat.
 - c. is John Sullivan
 - d. is a phantom to most people
 - e. all of the above except "a"

THE HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASS'N. Inc.

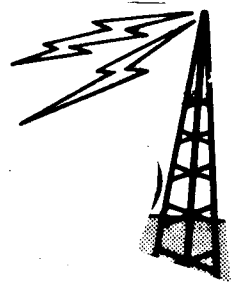
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

FRIDAY MAY 5, 1978

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
INTERSECTIONS OF ROUTES 57 AND 187,
FEEDING HILLS, MASS.



AMATEUR, CB, AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT!!!

DOORS OPEN AT 7:15 PM

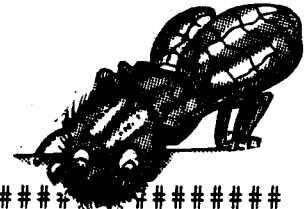
FREE TABLE SPACE TO MEMBERS OF ARRL AFFILIATED CLUBS!
(BE READY TO SHOW PROOF OF CLUB MEMBERSHIP/AFFILIATION.)

\$1.00 PER NON-BUSINESS/HOBBY TABLES.

\$2.00 PER BUSINESS TABLE SPACE.

(Each space is about 15 square feet)

.25¢ ADMISSION PUTS YOU IN THE RAFFLE!



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For more information:

Jeffrey J. Duquette K1BE

P.O. Box 346

Southwick, Mass 01077

Phone (413) 569-6739 (Not after 10 pm)

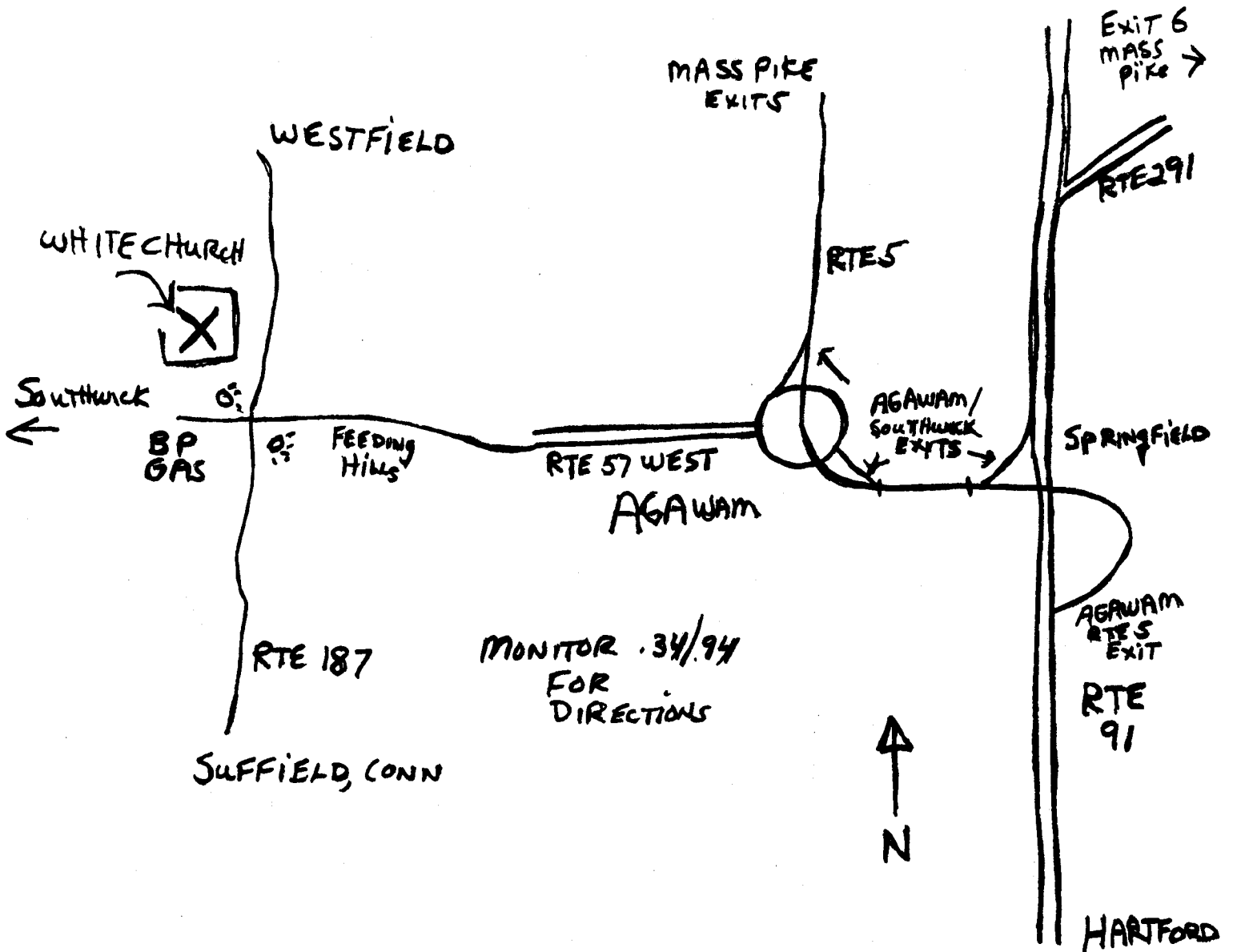


The Hampden County Radio Association, Inc., is a non-profit corporation of radio amateurs interested in the investigation of the technical aspects of the communication arts. The club is the base for the first district QSL bureau. We are affiliated with the American Radio Relay League and endorse their programs. The HCRA is a general interest radio club and does not operate any amateur repeaters. Meetings are held the first Friday of every month, (except July and August) and annual auctions, flea markets, banquets, and general interest programs make up the schedule. The association participates in many radio programs throughout each year, and almost every operating event in QST lists at least one club member's call. The club's station call is "W1NY", and is in memory of Hank Baier. Dues are \$5.00 for 12 months and everyone is welcome. "Zero Beat", our club newsletter is sent out ten times a year to all members. We hope to see you at our annual flea market.

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ORIGINS OF THE HCRA WORKED 25 MEMBERS AWARD by C. Norman Peacor

I am sure by now that it comes as no surprise to many of you that the Hampden County Radio Association has long offered a certificate for individuals working the members. The certificate originated on February 1, 1963, when Bernie Goyer, WIUPF, qualified for Certificate No. 1. I well remember that he personally drove to the house and hand delivered his list of 25 Hampden County Radio Association members that he had worked. During February of that year, 30 certificates in all were issued, and it was off to an auspicious beginning. I think that as you take a look at the list below, you will recognize many old and familiar calls, and it is really a roster of the many members of the Club who participated in its activities so vigorously during those particular years.

It is also interesting that as of the present time there is only one non-local recipient. Certificate No. 42 was issued on August 9, 1963, to Avis Miracle, W8WUT. Issuance of the certificates slowed down during 1964 to 1969 reflecting the fact that most members had qualified. No. 75 was issued on February 8, 1972, to Francis Black, W1MTV, and the last issued was No. 76 on March 4, 1977, to Bruce Felper, WA1PUX. Nevertheless, the certificate has been active for over 15 years now, and one of the good questions to ask yourself is, "Do I have mine?"

What does it take to get one? Not all that much really is required for Hampden County amateurs and members of the Hampden County Radio Association. It takes 25 contacts with members of the Club. If you will send a list showing the station called, signal reports and band worked (the usual log entries) and a copy of your QSL card, then you are in business. There is no fee, and you will quite easily and quickly be the recipient of a fine piece of wallpaper. Just for the sake of completeness, members outside the Hampden County area require just 15 contacts for the certificate, but, if they do pick up 25, they, too, receive the seal on their copy.

By the way, with all the activity now going on on bands, such as 10 meters, it is a fine occasion to spread the word to other individuals outside this call area to see if they can qualify. There is no period of time during which members must be worked, and I have Club rosters for many years in the past to corroborate contacts.

Just so that we may have a reading of the roll, the following is a list of the individuals who have earned the certificate in the order in which they earned them. Inadvertently, No. 58 was unissued so that there is one blank in the sequence.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Call Letters</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Call Letters</u>	<u>Name</u>
1	W1UPF	Bernard Goyer	40	K1TKL	Paul Wisiolek
2	W1HDQ	Edward P. Tilton	41	K1IJV	D. Jean Peacor
3	W1ALL	George H. Hughes	42	W8WUT	Avis Miracle
4	K1PTG	August Rosati	43	K1KCN	Arthur L. Lindsey
5	K1SAV	George Peloquin	44	K1DXK	David Bock
6	W1IC	Howard R. Gurney	45	W1ZER	Alfred Hodgson
7	K1PMK	George Dougan	46	K1NWF	Robert G. Young
8	W1FAB	Kenneth D. Walker	47	K1WQQ	Ernie Couchon
9	K1INGL	Don Rosati	48	K1JUI	Alan Carpin
10	K1SCY	Larry Bergeron	49	K1YFO	Steve Borg
11	K1UQB	Rudy Bayerle	50	K1IJU	Norm Peacor
12	W1DGJ	Mike Ludkiewicz	51	K1UHA	Cathedral Amateur Radio Club
13	W1JWV	Howard H. Cutting			
14	W1GIV	Robert D. Patten	52	K1ZQB	John Dumont
15	W1NLE	Robert A. Adolphson	53	K1SQN	Richard C. Gaskill
16	K1NIJ	David Klimaj	54	K1LJH	John Chenis
17	K1NEZ	Robert Kennedy	55	K1FJS	Gary L. Vey
18	K1TTJ	John J. Sayers	56	K1LDT	Chet Kalis
19	K1MMX	Evangelo Demetriou	57	K1RNH	Albert C. Mach
20	K1UXF	Hebert A. Stuart	58	-----	Not Issued
21	K1NWE	Robert Young	59	W1KAN	Warren Magee
22	K1PIJ	Walt Brown	60	W1STR	Norman P. Forest
23	K1MAL	Marvin E. McConkey	61	K1UOR	Doris Young
24	K1NJC	John J. Sheehan	62	W1UDT/1	Richard W. Lord
25	K1RGC	Fran Valois	63	W1DZZ	Donald Wade
26	K1VQX	Francis Lenihan	64	K1KKK	Dick Busher
27	K1IYT	Ernest D. Sias	65	K1HYI	Sheldon M. Titcomb
28	K1RUR	John W. Tilton	66	W1GJO	Robert Peterson
29	K1YHI	Raymond J. Kerr	67	K1FUA	Fred LaValley
30	K1TGT	John A. Gniady	68	W1UPH	Donald S. Johnson
31	W1UPG	Ann Goyer	69	W1IEK	Peter J. Marengo
32	W1OY	Morris Kasanof	70	W1HHN	Walt Nero
33	W1OFV	William E. Witinok	71	W1DNB	Robert H. Phoenix
34	W1HGP	Donald T. LaFleur	72	W1IUI	Duncan Smith
35	W1YWT	Helene K. Cheney	73	W1GZO	Ted Lockwood
36	K1OKG	Stephen Sullivan	74	W1IQJ	Donald E. Huntington
37	K1GEH	Frederick S. Bock	75	W1MTV	Francis Black
38	K1TGS	Daryl Grant	76	W1PUX	Bruce E. Felper
39	K1CYG	Stanley Call			

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For Sale: LaFayette mechanical IF filter, type MF-455-10AZ27 (for tube circuits) 455 khz, never used, with schematic and test data. \$15.00 and I'll mail it to you. Hugh WLPN
155 Amity Street, Amherst, Mass 01002 413-549-5062

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominations for next year's club officers open on April 20th. Bruce Felper, WALPUX, willhead a nominating committee made up of Rich Melbourne, WALYYW, and Andre Bouchard, WBLBZW. You can nominate any club member for any office by just telling one of these gentlemen or by sending a postcard to Bruce Felper, 24 Mountain View Dr., West Hartford, Conn 06119.

We need new people and would appreciate your help. The board is the governing body of your club and meets about once each month. It's not a very time-consuming job and it's fun. We hope you'll put your name forward.

MORE MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Joe, K1ZO and a C, reports working the Netherlands Antilles on 160 meters. Rumors that he's still using a spark gap transmitter are not true... A club member reports meeting a prospective technician at the FCC office who was taking the exam for the 17th time. You'd think he'd pass just through osmosis! ...As of March 1st, we have 143 paid up members. The goal is 150 by June 1st...Herb Binns, W1KZU, states that he's no relation to Jack Binns, the man who sent the first SOS. Herb goes back that far in radio though...Mail in the quiz with all answers correct and we'll send you an autographed picture of John Sullivan eating at the New England League Convention...Bill, W1JP, and Dick, W1QWJ, and other "novices" continue to try catching fish through holes in the ice. Don't fish hibernate all winter?... The Pioneer Valley Repeater Association/ Provin Mountain Club, et al, are having a flea market Sunday, April 9th, from 10 to 5 at the Newington High School. Bring your original operator's license and stop at the ARRL, just 2 minutes away...Dave, W1GAJ, did a nice job as net control on the Sunday morning WMEN... Don't forget the HCRA 10 meter net, 28,650 mhz, Mondays at 8 pm, EST... MTARA information net is on .34/.94 Wednesdays at 7:30 pm... The Provin Mtn Club has a hoss traders net Tuesday nights on .10/.70 at 8 pm... Any other nets, let us know!

QSL BUREAU

The HCRA has had the area number one DX QSL bureau for the past ten years. For five of those ten years we have been very fortunate to have Eleanor Gray as our manager. What's the QSL bureau all about? Well, this is where all of the foreign DX QSL's are sent for distribution to the New England States. Every month Eleanor goes down to the Forest Park sub-station and picks up bags and bags of cards. (16,000 for February alone!) If there are domestic cards in there they are returned to the sender. Every other year the cards have to be date stamped, and this is being done in 1978.

The cards are each handled twice; first to date stamp them and then to sort them by the first letter of the suffix. i.e. WB1CJH is sorted into the "C" group, as would be W1CJK. Individual club members have the responsibility for individual letters. Jean Peacor handles the letter "B" for example. Every ham that wants their DX QSL's should have an SASE with .26¢ postage on file with the bureau. Put your call in block letters in the upper left hand corner. People send in envelopes and expect the bureau to address them. These go into the circular file. Others send in stamps with no envelopes, or envelopes that are stamped but no address anywhere to be found. Some hams send in tiny little envelopes with .50¢ postage on them. Or giant envelopes with only .13¢! So be smart, send in 2 or 3 business sized SASE's with legible addresses. Many hams are also kind enough to send in donations to the Bureau. The club doesn't budget more than \$10.00 per year for the bureau.

Some of the other problems the bureau has are people with 2 or 300 cards and no postage. After a notice is sent out, these are usually discarded. If you have any questions about the bureau or your QSL's, write to the Forest Park sub-station, not to Zero Beat.

People like Eleanor Gray, Jean Peacor, Bob and Eunice Gordon, Tom Barrett, and Leo Brodeur have been with the bureau since the HCRA took it over. If you would like to help or be on a waiting list for a letter group, write to the bureau. Considering that they handle about 200,000 cards a year, we receive very few complaints. They are doing a great job and are a credit to the club and amateur radio. Many thanks, Eleanor, and kudos to your silent, unsung workers.

MORE MISCELLANEOUS NOTES!

...Congratulations to the new President of the Provin Mtn. Club, Pat Moretti, WB1BZJ. Bill Boilard and Norm Withers were re-elected to the offices of Vice-president/treasurer and Secretary. ...Al, W1YFQ, passed his advanced...Norm, N1PF, placed third in our section in the 1977 IARU Radiosport Championship. A very impressive score of 750 points, 41 contacts, and 10 ITU zones...Bruce, W1PUX, has sold his rig and plans to part with the pennies for a new one at Dayton. Brace yourself for his return to the airwaves in early May...Jim, W1UWX, has been at home horizontally polarized with a pulled back muscle. Cheer him up on two meters...Joe, WB1EMB, is operating a Century 21. How did you ever talk the XYL into it, Joe? Let us in on your secret...Donations to the "Support Your Local Game Wardens" fund can be sent to Bill Hall, W1JP, Brimfield, Mass. Let's all dig deep for this worthy cause!...Stan, K1CYG, is sunning in Florida. Hope he comes home to take 40 meters for Field Day! ...The Mosfets for the FT-101's should be in by March 27th. (we hope)...Dick, W1QWJ, achieved instant notoriety by writing to the Fox-Tango club that he preferred the TS-820s as a better rig than the Yaesu 901D...Ron, WB1ETS, heard W1ETS on the .34/.94 machine. Too bad that call was never issued! There are 35 students enrolled in the novice and general courses at the Jewish Community Center. Like to help out? See Jeff, K1BE...Nice job providing communications for the St. Patrick's Day parade in Holyoke.

THE QRP CHALLENGE

By Frandy Johnson, N1FJ

Most of us aren't so blasé that we don't get a thrill out of working dx-- even though it's fairly easy with a couple of hundred watts into a dipole. But it's especially exciting when you do it with a three-watt QRP rig.

For the purposes of this article we'll define QRP as under 5 watts input -- such as you'd have with Heathkit's HW-8 or Ten Tec's Argonaut. Also, we'll stick to HF operation, where the average ham can count on doing some good long-haul dx when conditions are right, and can routinely rag-chew "locals" within a radius of a couple of thousand miles.

I first started flea-power operation with the HW-8 feeding a multiple dipole made from wire won as a HCRA doorprize. The dipole was located 5 to 10 feet above the roof of my downtown apartment. Activity was confined to 40, 20, and 15 meters. My first contact was with an unsympathetic dx chaser in Georgia, who quickly signed at 30 wpm or so. But after that (at least I knew the kit was working) good strong QSO's on 15 and 20 meters followed, with signal reports as high as 599 from Florida. (I also got a fair share of 329 reports from painfully honest operators, when conditions weren't so hot.)

Then during early morning or late afternoon operation some real dx QSO's would occasionally appear -- Russia, Yugoslavia, Germany, Italy -- enough to make me realize that a better antenna couldn't hurt. So Tony, WB2HNR, and I slapped together a bargain-priced Gotham quad up about 20 feet above the roof. Results were gratifying, to say the least. The next evening LULDEH in Buenos Aires gave me a 579. The next week I even had a CQ answered!

On the evening of December 16, the JA's were rolling in, so I blasted out a call to JR1NRP and back he came with a 539. Well, I figured if I could work Japan, I could work Alaska, and KL7HCC came back. He had trouble believing my QRP -- and gave me a 599 from Anchorage.

One morning later on in the month, in a little over two hours, the "seasoned" HW-8 worked, in succession, ZF2AM, Grand Cayman; P11PT, Netherlands; G4FIS, England; EA20P, Spain; CK1KO, Newfoundland; SMGMG, Sweden; DF8XA, West Germany. And the day after, OH5SS, Finland; UQ2GDQ, Latvia; YU2AAX, Yugoslavia; SM3BDP, Sweden. The dxcc goal now seems possible, with some 35+ countries in the log. Best dx so far is ZL4AX, New Zealand, who gave me a 599 on 20 meters.

About your rig:

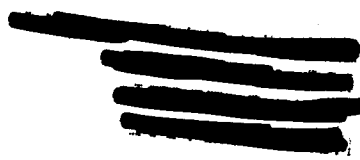
Have a good receiver. "You can't work 'em if you can't hear 'em." Have a good antenna -- a well tuned dipole, cut to frequency, will work well and you can avoid using a transmatch, to keep losses down. Use good quality coax and keep the runs short. But for best results, a two element quad or multi-element yagi will make an incredible difference. And get your antenna up in the air, in a relatively clear location. Homebrew projects are particularly inviting -- many hams tailor-make their own QRP gear. Have extra audio filtering available for bad QRM times.

About operating:

Dust off your key and polish up your operating skills. Know your abbreviations and Q signals. Forget about calling CQ-- aside from being one of life's more boring activities, it simply isn't effective for QRP

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



United States 13c



P.O. Box 346
Southwick, Mass 01077

work. Listen, answer CQ's, and listen some more. And sometimes best of all, sneak in a tail-end call before the kilowatts in Indiana notice. Operate regularly and be patient and persistent. Try listening at different times of day. Operate when those kilowatts in Indiana are in bed. Don't call just the strong signals -- often a distant station can copy your 3 watts just as well as you can copy his 200 watts. Try contesting -- you can really rack up the contacts when they are looking for you.

In this article I've taken for granted that you're a c.w. person with 20 meter privileges. And that's where you'll find the most consistent dxing. But Novices and Technicians will find 15 meters an excellent dx band when conditions are right. 10 meters also seems like a good possibility.

I think the "QRP Challenge" really epitomizes what is best about hamming. So give the local repeater a rest (a one-watt hand-held worling through the repeater is not QRP!) and start some QRP dx chasing. And if you hear me in a QSO with a ZS6, don't tune up on top of me!

QRP International publishes a newsletter. Send a s.a.s.e. to Joseph C. Szempias, W8JKB, 2359 Woodford Street, Toledo, OH 43605 for information. A year's membership is only \$2.00 and thereafter the subscription renewal is 50¢.