

ZERO BEAT

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Springfield, Mass.

ARRL Affiliated, 31st Year

April, 1980

NOTICE

THE APRIL MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FROM FRIDAY APRIL 4, 1980 to FRIDAY APRIL 11, 1980 IN OBSERVANCE OF PASSOVER AND GOOD FRIDAY.

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSN. CLUB MEETINGS

Feeding Hills
Congregational Church
Corner of Routes 57 and 187
Feeding Hills, Mass.
8:00 PM

Friday, April 11, 1980

This will be the last "regular" meeting of the year. Your president and his staff are planning to make this as interesting as previous meetings.

ANNUAL CLUB ELECTIONS

The nominating committee has been formed to nominate a slate of officers and directors for the 1980-1981 year. Please let Larry, WB1CJH know of your recommendations for officers and directors so that talented and capable people will not be overlooked. The HCRA now numbers over 200 members and it is impossible for the nominating committee to be familiar with the talents and interests of every member. The success of the club in the coming year is directly related to the quality of leadership and your help is very important.

THE HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASS'N
Springfield, Massachusetts
ANNUAL FLEA MARKET
Friday May 2nd 1980

Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Intersection of Routes 57 & 187,
Feeding Hills, Ma.

AMATEUR, CB, AND ELECTRONIC
EQUIPMENT!!!

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 pm

\$ 3.00 per table

NO JUNK, PLEASE!!!!

For more information:

Andy Bouchard, WB1BZW
(413) 786 2301

HAM OF THE YEAR

This is the time to publicly acknowledge that person whom you feel has made a contribution to amateur radio and/or the Hampden County Radio Association. A club member may nominate any ham he feels qualifies for this honor.

Nominations can be made by any club member either by mail to the editor of Zero Beat or in person at the April club meeting. Nominations will be listed on a ballot and voting will take place at the May meeting.

Now is the time to recognize those who have helped all of us.

ZERO BEAT, April, 1980

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO
ASSOCIATION, INC.

PRESIDENT

Larry Soltz WB1CJH 567 3444

VICE PRESIDENT

Ron Beauchemin WB1ETS 593 9852

SECRETARY

Andre Bouchard WB1BZW 786 2301

TREASURER

Paul Kress W1ZKT 568 8291

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Jeffery Duquette	K1BE
Al Sittard	WB1EMN
Ollie Passburg	N1AFK
Jack Lo Monaco	W1YYK
Steve Shore	W1ZEV
Ray Morin	K1CRG
Jack Dumont	K1ZQB

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Contributor	John Balboni	AC1T
Contributor	Joe Dumais	WB1EMB
Contributor	Bert Snyder	WB1DTZ

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I left Holyoke, Sunday May 23, after working the St. Pats parade feeling tired but content. I was proud to be a part of a team, led by Doc, W1HOD, who had accomplished a difficult job via the MTARA-94 repeater successfully. As I reflected on the day's activities certain things were recalled. The accomplishments of the "team" included coordinating and organizing the units in the parade, and calling for medical aid for those that needed it among many other actions.

I recall that K1NWE, Bob, before the parade started, asked for check-ins for the Western Mass. Emergency Net - an 80 meter net - on 52 simplex. Throughout the time the "Parade Net" was on, the low band group gave weather conditions throughout the New England Region. Teamwork was evident throughout the work of the net. I noted that although the "team" contained many officers and "members of the boards" of both HCRA and MTARA all were just "hams" doing a good job together. Club affiliations were of no importance. This net didn't represent only public service; it also represented teamwork. We members of this great ham fraternity living in the Springfield area should realize the richness of experience that both clubs afford us. It is important that we all support both clubs wholeheartedly.

While the clubs should retain their individuality and separate programming, we should never lose sight of the importance of working together in common endeavors of public and emergency service.

73,
Larry, WB1CJH
President

TIDBITS

Thanks to Chet, W1IVK for his note about his trip to Florida in January. Chet traveled by auto train and car to Florida to see cold weather, hi, and attend 20th annual Tropical Hamboree in Miami. Chet also sent me the program for the Southeastern Division Convention. It is interesting that advance tickets were \$ 3.00 and tickets at the door were \$ 4.00. This included a flea market that took him 4 hours to see!

Chet also enclosed a map of Florida on which the locations of repeaters and their frequencies are shown. Copies of the map can be obtained for 25 cents from:

Florida Skip, Inc.
P.O. Box 501
Miami Springs, Fl. 33166

YOUR EDITOR SPEAKS

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country....."

So spoke Thomas Paine in 1776. Perhaps this could be interpreted in terms of the HCRA at a time the nominating committee is seeking leaders for the coming year. A bit dramatic you say. Perhaps it is but, then, perhaps it's not.

How many of you are willing to give up a little free time next year and make your contribution to the continuing success of the HCRA? You're willing to help you say, but you haven't been asked and you don't want to be "pushy". You're willing to help but you don't know what contribution you can make. You're willing to help but your time is limited. You're willing to help but you don't want a full time job. You're willing to help but...

You are willing to help but perhaps you're a summer soldier and a sunshine patriot. This may be the time to come forward and tell Larry, WB1CJH, you are willing to help, period.

FIELD DAY

Field Day, June 28 and 29, is rapidly approaching and the HCRA will gather at Camp Barber in West Granville, Mass. for the occasion. Camp Barber sounds great for the big event and maybe your XYL and kiddies will enjoy this one.

The camp has a large area for camping, a large building, a large kitchen, hot and cold running water. Two ponds for fishing, 20 miles of hiking trails, trails for motorcycles and no neighbors. This sounds great, see you there.

A slow speed CW net has been started to provide a training ground for those of us who aspire to a CW net. If you have ever had the desire to try your hand at a CW net and have been reluctant to check into a CW net this is your opportunity to join in with other net beginners and learn the tricks from the masters.


Monday thru Friday at 6:30 pm on 3562 MHz the net is called by an experienced net control station and a 30 minute training net is conducted at 12 to 15 WPM. The NCS is very willing to QRS if you would prefer a slower speed until you develop confidence and an understanding of the procedures. Information prepared by the ARRL on checking into a slow speed net is available from this paper and may be obtained by sending an SASE to the editor whose address appears on the last page.

Listen at 6:30 PM for CQ WMTN Monday thru Friday at 3562 MHz!

ZERO BEAT AWARD

The Amateur Radio News Service has judged Zero Beat "Excellent" and has awarded Zero Beat, edited by Jeff Duquette, K1BE, their Annual Publication Award for the advancement of amateur radio journalism.

Our congratulations once again to Jeff for a job well done.



FRANK H. KOZAK
LORRAINE KOZAK

"Quick As A Wink"

PRINTING & SALES CO.
TEL (413) 736-8184

454 MAIN STREET
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA. 01089

FREE PARKING
AT OUR DOOR

WHY SHOULD I REGISTER
FOR ARES?

From time to time, all of us have probably been asked to consider "joining up" with the ARES. Most have shied away because their busy schedule just doesn't have room for one more commitment. Some don't really know what the ARES is and how it differs from RACES and other groups.

Without going into detail, ARES stands for "Amateur Radio Emergency Service". It is one of the two divisions of the Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPSC). The other division is the National Traffic System (NTS). The ARES is open to all amateurs regardless of their affiliation. It is sponsored by the ARRL, but League membership is not required. On a section level, the leadership is supplied by the Section Emergency Coordinators (ECs).

O.K., so what is RACES? RACES is a means by which amateurs may serve civil defense in disaster communications on an organized basis. The RACES rules were announced in 1951 as a sub-part of the amateur regulations. The basic difference, therefore, is that RACES is government sponsored, while ARES is sponsored by the ARRL.

O.K., so why register for ARES? In registering your station and yourself, you commit to no financial or legal responsibility. You simply provide your EC and SEC with information about your station capability (frequencies, modes, power source, etc). In a real emergency (remember the Windsor tornado?), the local EC will have the information needed to organize emergency communications networks.

One can go futher by applying for an OES appointment. To qualify, an Official Emergency Station operator must be a member of the ARRL and possess a Technician or higher

license, be a member of ARES and participate in emergency nets (like WMEN), be capable of using the proper message form, and report monthly to the SCM. Of course, ARES registration does not oblige you to become an OES appointee.

The Western Massachusetts Emergency Net operates at 3937 KHz each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. Stations may also check in on 2 meters at 9:00 a.m. via K1ZJH/R, WR1AEF, K1FFK/R, W1UD/R, WR1ABO, and K1NBS/R. Western Massachusetts ARPSC officials are:

- SCM - W1KK
- SEC - W1JP
- WMEN Mgr. - W1UPH
- Berkshire Co. EC - W1KZS
- Franklin Co. EC - None
- Hampden Co. EC - K1IQA
- Hampshire Co. EC - W1GAJ
- Worcester Co. EC - W1JTL

They are all in the call book, so won't you contact your county EC and join the ARES? We could use you!

Bill Hall - W1JP
Western Massachusetts SEC
March 5, 1980

FOR SALE

HyGain 2 meter HT with touch-tone pad, nicads, charger, 6 sets of crystals and leather case.

\$ 150.00

Call WB1CJH, (413) 567 3444

FOR SALE

1 Cushcraft ATB-34 Beam Antenna. List \$ 289.95 and never out of the shipping carton. Pick up for \$ 200.

W1QWJ, Richard B. Stevens
P.O. Box 118
Bolton Road
Ashuelot, N.H. 03441

AMATEUR RADIO AT THE
WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Amateur radio communications for the winter Olympic games was divided into two operations. The "Torch Run" demonstrated the unique service amateur radio could provide preceding the games, and the special event station operating while the games were in progress.

I participated in the special event station WØRAN located in the Olympic village near Lake Placid, and operated WØRAN/K2DFS, at HF station in Bloomingdale, N.Y.

The station at the Olympic village was located at the main entrance, and required a security clearance and a pass to work in the area. The station used a Clegg 2m FM transceiver, a Hal D53100 ASR terminal with a model 28 for hard copy and the Ten Tec Omni D. Over 400 messages were originated at WØRAN. Most were sent to relatives and friends of athletes, and volunteers working near our station. We also received many messages for delegations, hams working for the media, and traffic for the local volunteers.

In the process of handling traffic, we were able to meet many of the athletes. Randy Gardner was the most well-known of the group. During one of the busiest hours of the day, an athlete from West Germany stopped to say he was a ham also.

The close proximity of the station to the press Co-ordinating desk resulted in a ten-minute eyeball QSO with Don Meredith of ABC. I was glad they were saving their camera power supply for more deserving subjects!

On Friday, February 22, I operated WØRAN/K2DFS at Bloomingdale, N.Y. I worked 15 and 10 meters SSB and accumulated about 100 contacts. After ten hours of steady operating I could hardly talk. I can see why

people try to shorten their call letters. The call WØRAN/K2DFS with phonetic expansion is a mouthful. One station was upset because WØRAN was trying to break in to a QSO with K2DFS.

There were many interesting side lites to the games. A local ham working at the Radio Shack store noted the Japanese were trading their national sport organization pins for imported plastic flashlights. It seems the price of a Japanese flashlight is too expensive in Japan, but is a good buy over here.

Perhaps you have heard of the ritual of trading pins. The object is to trade our pins (available at any store in the Olympic area) for the pins the athletes carry just for this type of transaction. I was not interested in bothering people, however, one of the hams working with me came back from his lunch break at the cafeteria with two pins from the USSR. This proved too much temptation and soon I was in the pin collecting business. A new type of QSL for an eyeball QSO?

The spirit of cooperation and understanding was quite noticeable. The same friendly atmosphere we have with overseas amateurs. I had a great time explaining amateur radio to many people who stopped by the station. Also the equipment loaned by the manufacturers gave me a chance to operate the latest ham gear.

The Olympic games are unique and it is a memorable experience just to be there in any capacity.

Bob Gravel, K1BUB

FOR SALE

Heathkit VHF/UHF Hi-Lo scanner. 8 channel including 3 Xtals for local police. Operates either 10 volts or 110 volts. Infrequently used. \$ 100. For information call:

Scot, WB1CAC
(413) 786 0618

John Balboni, The Man At The Organ;

He's the whole orchestra and the conductor, too, and the fans love him.

And when John Balboni sits at his compact Conn Organ at the Big E Coliseum, his fingers walking across the two rows of 44 keys and his feet shifting from one of the eight pedals to another, he likes to feel as though he's part of the Springfield Indians.

Perhaps, only a mythical or spiritual part, of course, but nevertheless a guy who may in some small way help the team win a hockey game, just by supplying some of the impetus the fans may need to cheer their heroes on.

As the fans file into the arena, John likes to get them into a cheerful, happy pre-game mood with such pleasant numbers as "Melody of Love," "Roll Out the Barrel," and "Sabre Dance."

"In the first period, I generally start in with some peppy songs to get the spectators in a festive mood," John says. "I give them "Shake, Rattle and Roll" (always a favorite here and once the Tribe's theme song) or "Hi Neighbor!" or perhaps "Anything Goes."

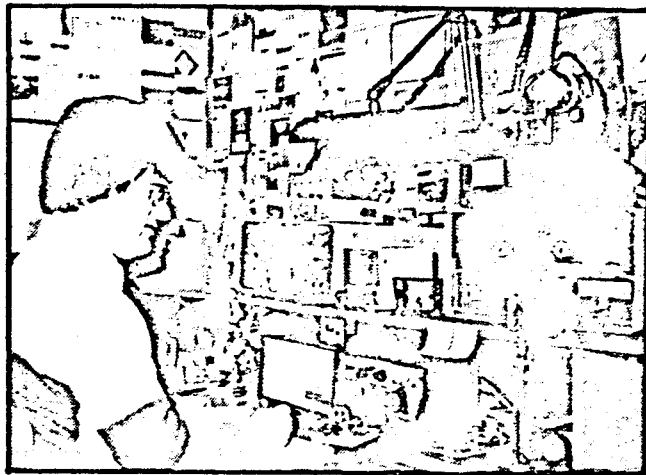
To pick up the tempo of both the crowd and the players, Balboni may come on a little stronger in the second period with some of the in-between charges, such as "Mexican Hat Dance," or "Zorba the Greek," or something in those veins.

Then in the third period, especially if it's a tight game, John may come on with a crescendo, the super charges, such as "Havah Nagilah" or "Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" or perhaps "Sweet Georgia Brown" or maybe even the old theme song from the "Lone Ranger."

If it's a critical point in the final period and the Indians really need a boost, then John tries to exhort the utmost in enthusiasm out of the fans, in hopes that their cheers and foot stamping may urge the Indians on.

"When the Indians are rallying," he stresses, "I try to keep the momentum going. He believes that "Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" is most effective in keeping the action going.

Although John, a personable young fellow, has played the organ for the past seven years, both for kicks and professionally, he maintains that music is only a hobby. His ambitions are to become a qualified electrical engineer.



John Balboni Ham Radio Operator

Even so, Balboni frequently performs at parties, weddings and other social functions and is the regular organist at St. Anthony's Church in his hometown of Agawam where he also serves as a lector, an aide to the priests at various services.

His major at Western New England College is electrical engineering (he's been on the dean's list for all three of his years) and is the holder of a F.C.C. (Federal Communication Commission) Extra Class Ham Radio license which enables him to send or receive messages to and from all parts of the world, over 300 countries in all.

He has communicated regularly, through this specialized medium, with people in Japan, Italy, Australia, England, South America and elsewhere. How is he understood in such far away foreign countries? "Either by spoken words or International Morse Code," he says. "It's fun communicating with people you don't even know."

John is also an electrical technician for his hometown's Civil Defense Dept. and maintains all of its sensitive equipment. He also belongs to several highly respected clubs in the communications and electronic fields.

John also is an active member of the Agawam Organ Club and follows hockey and baseball avidly as a fan. Another of his favorite pastimes is playing the organ at skating sessions, following Indian home games.

HOW GOOD IS YOUR FIST?

During the past few issues of Zero Beat I have emphasized CW operation, not only out of personal preference but also because it appears that CW does not appeal to everyone as a primary mode of communication. With the advent of sophisticated SSB transceivers, two meter FM, and the demise of CW and AM only rigs, it appears the importance of the CW mode has depreciated somewhat.

Granted many don't care for CW, and some can't get their code speed above 5 WPM, there is no reason why each and everyone of us can't send good code.... even if it is only at 2½ WPM.

Being a CW diehard from day one, I always thought I was a pretty good CW operator until I served my six months active duty for training as a radar operator for the Massachusetts Army National Guard. For some reason the U.S. armed services has an uncanny ability to serve a little humble pie to the best of us.

The army has a unique way of imparting code proficiency in that they require you to copy what you send. To Qualify as a radar operator, an individual is required to send code letter groups to a tape recorder. Then the tape is played back and the same individual is required to copy what he previously sent. Of course he is allowed so many mistakes for the code speed being tested for.

What a surprise when I had to copy what I sent. It was terrible as I somehow squeaked through the code test. From that point forward, I've strived to send good code feeling sorry for the guy on the other end. (Not to mention my ego).

The moral of the story - most of us tend to get sloppy and forget somebody has to decipher what we are sending. It wouldn't hurt to occasionally send into a tape recorder and try to copy it. Don't take offense - I'm not trying to say that everyone is sending with their elbows and neither am I looking for CW converts. Let's maintain the state of the art and who knows - maybe more of your CQs will be answered.

Gent, W1LCQF

HOW W1MNG BECAME W1KK

It was back around 1953, a year or so after the Extra Class became available that I had occasion to visit 1600 Custom House Tower in Boston with some friends we had been helping to upgrade to General. I went along for the ride, and to provide a little moral support for our adult but nervous students. While browsing around up there enjoying the views of Boston from the 16th floor and the busy harbor of tea-party fame, my eye caught a little notice on the FCC bulletin board inviting qualified hams to take the Extra.

I knew the 20 WPM wouldn't bother me, but all those sophisticated theory questions, schematics, rules and regs. Without any prior expectation of taking the test, much less preparing for it, I decided to give it a try, so that at least I would have had a preview of what to study for later on some-time.

The first part of the test was the code. No problem receiving the nice 20 WPM machine. Then the FCC guy said, "Oh yes, you also have to send 20 WPM; do you have your key?" Seeing as we were all the way from Agawam, politely of course, I said "what key?" He consented to look for a key I could use, and in a few

(Continued on page 8)

WLKK (Cont'd. from page 7)

minutes, he handed me a little stamped metal cheapie and said "here you go". This turned out to be quite a challenge. I flunked the first try, but after a little practice which he reluctantly allowed, I finally made it, but not without a little sweat. The subsequent theory part was taken in stride, so the ride to Boston had been fruitful, but there were then as yet no privileges for the EXTRA ticket.

Some few years later they did come out with some concessions to EXTRAS, one of which was that for a \$ 20 bill you could get a two-letter call mail-order. This I did and within a week or ten days, W1MNG was gone, replaced by WLKK. As a CW nut, I welcomed the "go,Go"

call and have been taking a ribbing from my "mng" friends ever since. A curious thing about the KK call is that I knew Tom Chapman the previous holder quite well and had worked him a number of times from his Bondsville QTH and later West Springfield, before he passed on. I was later told by Hank Baier, W1NY, while he was still alive, that he had been the original assignee of LKK at his home town of Chelsea. You see now why KK has a little sentimental meaning to me, and why I am proud to be trustee of the memorial club call of W1NY.

Art, WLKK
March 14, 1980



HAM CALL PLATES

If you've always wanted your call sign on your license plates, this is the form to return to your insurance agent. There is an extra two dollar charge, but it is not a "vanity" plate, so don't pay ten dollars! The amateurs lobbied and had a special law passed so that we could get the lower rate.



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES
100 Nashua Street, Boston, Mass.

Date _____ Station Call Letters _____
(register number)

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR'S APPLICATION

Application is made for number plates displaying the special register number noted above.

I hereby certify that I am licensed under said number by the Federal Communications Commission as an Amateur Radio Operator and that said license is not in the novice class. A photostatic copy of my F.C.C. license is attached.

Signature of Applicant

Address

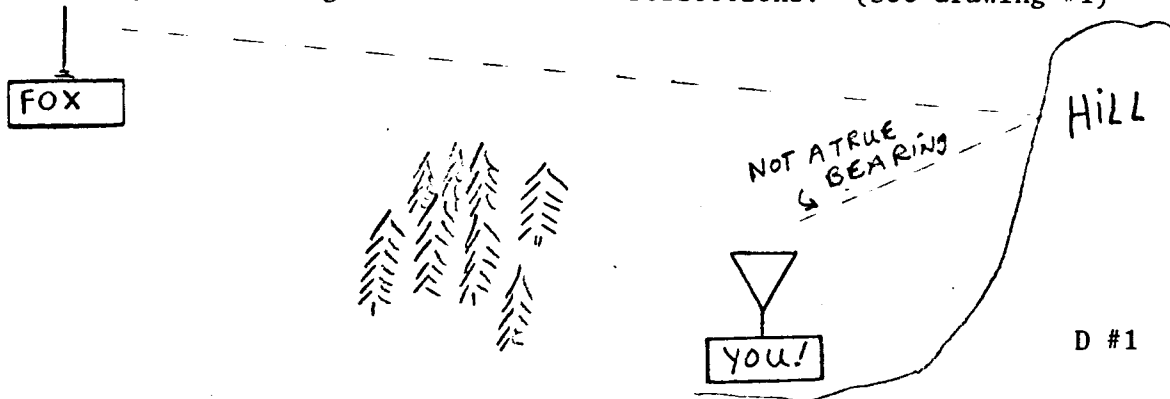
DIRECTION FINDING: KEEP IT SIMPLE!

By Jeffrey J. Duquette, K1BE

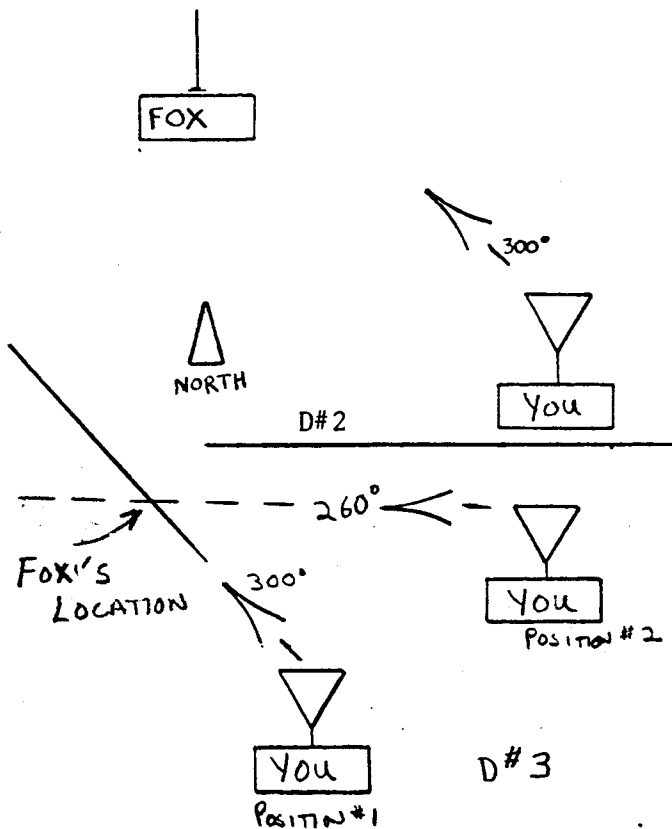
Listening in on .52 direct, you're shocked to hear your callsign being used! Not only used but abused, as profanities fill the air. Boy, would you love to "talk" with them in person! How would you locate them though?

Fox hunts, or hidden transmitter hunts, are routinely held to improve a ham's ability to locate transmitters quickly. A crashed airplane could present a life-or-death situation for those on board. A directional antenna can be built from plans in the ARRL "Antenna Guide", or purchased. Because its' a receiving antenna you can design it with a high front-to-back ratio. That and a very narrow beam width will make it easier for you to take a bearing. You've got the receiver, antenna and a car, what's next?

The "fox" transmits, and you follow the signals to his lair. Simple, right? Well, it's not so easy. Radio signals bounce off buildings, etc. So you may go off on a goose chase due to reflections. (see drawing #1)



Rather than assume your first radio direction is true, may I suggest this? Using a compass and a map, take your first bearing and read the direction on the compass. Looking at your topo or road map, you mark an "X" at your location. Allowing 14' west for magnetic declination in this area, you draw a straight line at 314' on the map. (see drawing #2)

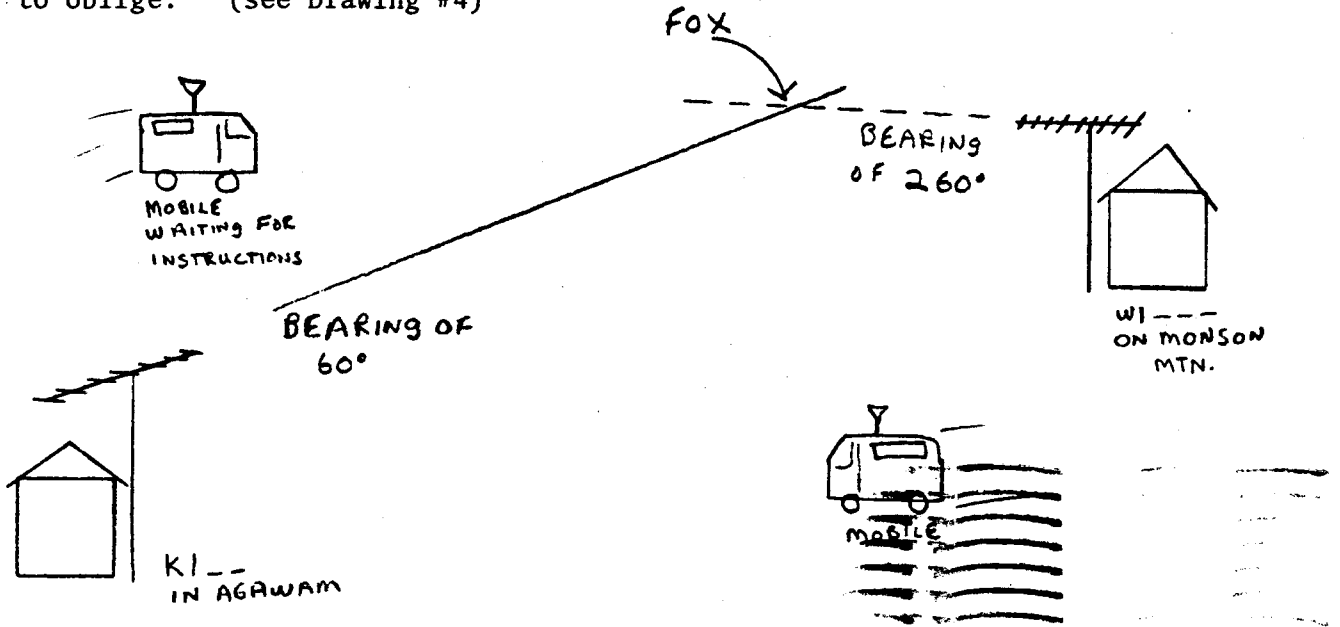


Somewhere along that line is the fox. But if the echo was present you'll waste time looking. So now move one-half mile and 90' to your first position. Taking a second reading and knowing your position exactly, the bearing is 260'. $260+14=274'$ on the map. Where the lines cross is where the fox is! Several things affect the accuracy. Use your compass correctly and mark your bearings corrected for the deviation on a map oriented to true north. Know your positions accurately.

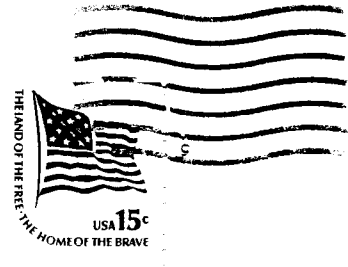
As you drive towards the intersection of the two lines, the signal strength should increase. You should be able to eyeball the fox when they are very strong.

With teamwork, any illegal Xmtr can be pinpointed quickly. A possible way to make it work might be having two fixed stations with very

directional antennas take bearings and notify mobiles on a separate frequency. The mobile could close in on the selected area and find the xmtr. Even a mobile can be pinpointed if they talk long enough. What should be done when they're caught? You can send in your ideas. If a local radio club would like a talk on using a compass and a map, and basic DF-ing, I'll be glad to oblige. (see Drawing #4)



Hampden County Radio Association
 Paul J. Kress, W1ZKT, editor
 216 Eastwood Drive
 Westfield, Mass. 01085



ZERO BEAT, April, 1980

FIRST CLASS MAIL

ACIT

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 ██████████
 NOV 80 E ARL