

WILRR
August 1949

ZERO HEAT

VOL II

Number 8

ANNOUNCEMENTS Every one who was on hand at last year's picnic will be pleased to know that the August meeting will be a repetition of the affair, this time at Look Memorial Park in Florence, Mass. Al Purseglove has made arrangements for us and will provide softball equipment for the ball players. As many of you know, there is a very fine pool at the Park, so bring your suits. This will be an affair for the family with prizes for the women and children; bring 'em all. If you don't have an xyl and/or jr. ops. come and lend a hand to the parents who will be losing the battle to keep the kids from riding the Park's miniature train all afternoon. The picnic tables and surrounding area have been reserved from 11:00 A.M. until the park closes so you can plan on either a picnic lunch or supper or both, but the biggest crowd is expected for lunch. Directions and road map will be found later in this issue. OH YES - the date will be Sunday, August 14, 1949!

LAST MONTH The meeting after Field Day is always a discussion meeting regardless of the planned program and this year was no exception. We did, however, enjoy hearing Perce Noble's resume of the Directors meeting and Hank Baier's summary of Field Day, and Bill Ham walked off with a whole carload of ancient equipment from the auction.

TRAFFIC The old-timers at the traffic game are still gasping for breath after Russ Hobbie, 1RHU, walked off with top traffic honors for the section last month with over 100 messages handled. Russ is now in the process of rebuilding for 80, 40 and 20 and not only will his presence on the Western Mass Net be welcomed by those who have been carrying the ball so long and so well, but it will also provide the much-needed, consistent Springfield Traffic outlet. Russ just received his A-1 operator certificate, by the way - have you got yours?

The big news for traffic men this month is the release of the new ARRL National Traffic Plan which will be put into effect during the fall of this year for the purpose of "encouraging traffic handling and of providing for quicker and more accurate relay of traffic". Full details may be had by dropping a line to the Communications Dept. of QST and Sept. QST will carry further information. Also coming up in the Sept. issue will be the new system of counting traffic which will go into effect with September traffic, so be sure and check on the new system before sending in your totals for the BPL.

TRAFFIC The old-timers at the traffic game are still gasping for breath after Russ Hobbie, 1RHU, walked off with top traffic honors for the section last month with over 100 messages handled. Russ is now in the process of rebuilding for 80, 40 and 20 and not only will his presence on the Western Mass Net be welcomed by those who have been carrying the ball so long and so well, but it will also provide the much-needed, consistent Springfield Traffic outlet. Russ just received his A-1 operator certificate, by the way - have you got yours?

The big news for traffic men this month is the release of the new ARRL National Traffic Plan which will be put into effect during the fall of this year for the purpose of "encouraging traffic handling and of providing for quicker and more accurate relay of traffic". Full details may be had by dropping a line to the Communications Dept. of QST and Sept. QST will carry further information. Also coming up in the Sept. issue will be the new system of counting traffic which will go into effect with September traffic, so be sure and check on the new system before sending in your totals for the BPL.

REBUTTAL Wes Thayer, on behalf of himself and Bert Binns, hotly denies that Feeding Hills can be classified as a "remote area" as alleged in a recent Zero Beat. In fact, Wes reminds us that both Springfield and Feeding Hills were once a part of the Indian Territory of Agawan, but the Indians didn't want Springfield so they traded it to Lou Richmond in 1832 for a 3 tube neudrodyne and thus both the city of Springfield and the Springfield Radio Co. were born. (Ed. note: The reason that there are no Indians around here now who can verify this story is probably that they found that, due to the scarcity of BC transmitters in 1832, the receiver didn't function very well, so they went west to see if they could trade it to some unsuspecting Cherokee.)

DX With the coming of summer and its attendant heat waves and lightning storms almost every ham's thoughts turn to cooler pastimes. A few of the DXers have kept at it, however, and brought forth a couple of new ones. One of the rarest was discovered by (of all people - a traffic man) Russ Hobbie, who found that KV4AA was lining up contacts for VP5BD in the Cayman Islands on 7295 kc. every night at 10 pm EDST. Unfortunately, Russ had his rig torn apart but he tipped off LKFV and LJYH who, along with LEOB, added a new country Gil Williams, LAPA, has been getting in a few licks in the evenings lately (after his daughter turns off the TV set) and has come up with such goodies as UF6AC, CT3AV, UC2CB, TF9TP, & VP3JM not to mention KB6 AJ and HS1SS in the morning. This gives him 98 toward his post-war DXCC. Although there are only two of these post-war gizmos in Springfield we know for sure that LAPA, LPDF, LEOB, LIJT, 1CJK, 1IOZ, LAVK and possibly others are all within easy reach - who's gonna be the next one? After three months of chasing VK1VU every morning before breakfast, LJYH worked VK1's VU, RA & FE, all within a week. We have it on good authority from Vx3TD/VR4 that there will be activity in VR4

land for some time to come. He will be there himself for a few weeks and then VR4AA will take over. There are those of us who doubt the story of the underground antennae but even that was hardly less believable than the 7 mc indoor doublet that Bob Lieson used to snag VP5BD. With one end tied to the living room sofa, and the other end to the ice-box it shouldn't work - but he got a 589!

LOCAL CHIT-CHAT We are feeling pretty smug right now over the way we scraped up the material for this paragraph. We figured that most of our loyal contributors would be away on vacation during July so we held on to the stuff they sent us during June and Eureka - here we have it, a month old to be sure, but then most everyone else was on vacation too so you'll never know the difference. One up-to-date flash that we have is that Pete Pedersen, LPVW, has been working on his new HF rig during June and July and now has the mounting bracket for his 829B all done. Don Babyok, LRIA was QRT for a while during the period that the factory had his receiver on the rack for a re-alignment job, but should be back in business by the time this hits the newstands. We'll expect reports of VU7AF and AC4YN now, Don, on 7 mc., that is. Myles Brennan, LMOK, has apparently solved his beam braking problems 'cause his chief concern is now a 420 mc rig using push-pull-parallel 6J6's. This will make Myles a strong contender for the 5 buck prize which Zero Beat has offered for the longest distance on 420 mc. (providing, of course, that he can get through the QRM). TVI problems at LMOK were completely eliminated by an overhaul job on the final amplifier and a change from AM to NBFM. Latest on the list of TRS-50 owners is Ralph Wagoner, OEJG/1 who reports that it is working so well that he has been spurred into putting his beam up again. And speaking of new equipment, John Weighell, LQJN, has a brand new receiver which is really pulling in the DX for him (Lets have a little dope for the DX column John!) Clarence Bordeau, LIJT, caused considerable commotion in his neighborhood the other day when two small boys mistook him for Red Ryder. We don't know where his sunburn hurts the most, but he told us the other day that he hasn't sat down at his rig for weeks. Bob Leison, LKFV, has quite a burn too, but there is so much more of Bob to spread it over that it doesn't look nearly so bright. Hal Pansch, 9BIB/1 had a tough few minutes the other day when a fellow walked in and asked him for a 201A. Hal was so startled that he let go of his super-salesman's composure and asked "What do you want an old clunker like that for?" but he rallied and sold the guy a 60A when he found that the request was serious, and the fellow was taking a "modern" radio correspondence course. Activity at the Steven's household is at a low ebb since LQWJ's jr. op. Ricky won't let Dick work on the TV set when Hop-a-Long Cassidy is on and the xyl wants to watch the later programs. Guess the only thing left to do is to get back on six meters. Dick now has over thirty states - can anyone beat that for \$5? Hank Baier, LNY, has so many projects lined up that he is considering hiring a project engineer to assign priority numbers for him. Things are really tough when a civilian has to get around to doing things by the numbers. Bob Adolphson, LNLE, is currently enjoying a two-weeks vacation, resting up for a big EC drive this fall, no doubt! As we said, most everyone has been away and we didn't get any contributions this month, so now that you have got home again, how about a card or note sometime before Sept. 1 - thanks a lot!

YE PROD We were delighted to hear, in a round-about way that a few of our less diligent members were wounded by our pre-Field Day issue which stated in rather plain language that we felt all members should take part. We have been trying to stir up activity with pleas and insults for over a year now, and were beginning to lose faith in the power of the pen when this refreshing bit of news reached our ears. How about some more of you guys getting really mad and pitching in to make the HCRC a real live-wire club?

AEC One fellow told us the other day that in order to become a member of the AEC, it was necessary to have a complete portable station including a gas driven generator! Admittedly, it would be wonderful if every AEC member did possess such facilities, but nothing could be further from the truth than to assume that such equipment is a membership requirement. Every man in our club who is willing to offer his services as a licensed operator and that

relatives and if an emergency communications system would help to mitigate the danger, would you want to help with the communications? (2) Are you an AEC member? (3) How do you expect to get the opportunity to help with organized communications if your EC doesn't have your name on his list and consequently doesn't know that you want to help?

COMESTS Even during the summer those who love 'em can get into 'em and those who hate 'em can gripe about 'em. July produced another CD party with LECB, LPHU and LJYH taking part. As usual, we all had our troubles - EOB spent several hours making last-minute changes on his rig, RHH tried to get on right in the middle of his rebuilding spree and found that his buffer had more output than his final, and JYH had to use everything short of prestidigitation to make a book salesman disappear during the first hot hour - anybody want to buy a complete encyclopedia cheap?

Next on the list of competitive activities is the CQ DX contest, the phone section being the weekend of OCT. 29 and the CW weekend, Nov. 5. Those of you who entered last year will remember that this was one of the best of all contests - and this year, for the benefit of those who can only get on one band, a prize will be given to the highest single-band score in each call area. So read all about it on page 36 of August CQ and let's see if we can produce a winner in either the single-band or all-band scoring class.

VHF Activity on the higher frequencies has been mighty sparse this summer. There have been numerous openings on both Six and Two but the hot weather was too much to cope with. Plans are in the making, however, for a Six meter Net and a Two meter Net to start up this fall and patterned after the present Thursday night Ten meter Net. Full details will appear in Zero Beat at a later date. Any ideas and/or assistance on these two nets will be more than welcome so if you are interested, drop a line to Dick Stevens, 1QWJ.

FLASH When building your next Cascode preamplifier, you will save yourself some trouble by bypassing the common B+ lead to ground with a 1000 mmf condenser at the cold end of the 6J6 plate coil. This should prevent mutual conduction from the 6AK5 plate to the 6J6 plate. The circuit in QST is shown using coax input to the 6AK5. If 300 ohm twin lead is to be used a 3 turn coil interwound with the 6AK5 grid coil should prove helpful.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES In order that this paper might be run on a slightly more business like basis we have now arranged for someone else besides Ye Ed to fold, staple, stamp, scotch-tape, address and mail some 75 or 80 copies every month. Not that we didn't have some help - LNLE, LIJT, LKFV, LKUE, LBVR and the xyl have all pitched in at one time or another and we are very grateful for their help. Now, if humanly possible, we will function as follows: LJYH will prepare the paper and enthusiastically accept any and all contributions thereto and deliver it to LNLE at least a week and one-half before the meeting. This should allow Bob time to get it to the typist and to proofread it before it is mailed to the members. Although some meetings have been held on the second Friday of the month for sundry reasons, it would be wise to get all contributions in by the 20th of the preceding month just to make sure. We have tried to establish several "Departments" with this issue in the hopes that those of you who are interested in one particular phase will read, enjoy and contribute to that department of Zero Beat. If there is any phase of amateur radio not covered by this issue (in our own small way) let us know and we will see that it gets into later issues. Do you like the new form? Frankly, it is far from original. F. E. Handy's CD Bulletin and several other papers use it, but we thought it looked good enough to copy. Let's have some comments and suggestions for the improvement of Zero Beat. Now that more time can be spent writing and less mailing, we hope to do a better job.