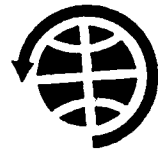




# ZERO BEAT



AMSAT

## Hampden County Radio Association

Springfield, MA

December 1985

ARRL Affiliated, 37th Year

**Next Meeting**      Friday      December 6      1985

Please, no smoking during the meeting! Thank you!

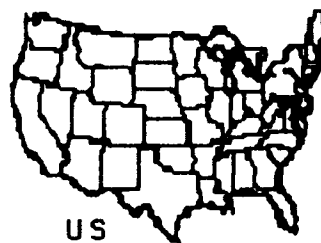


NO SMOKING

**DX-PEDITION!**  
**W1DGJ'S VIDEO TAPE... YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT!**

Feeding Hills Cong. Church  
Center of Feeding Hills  
Routes 57 and 187  
Doors open at 7:30 PM  
Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM

US Callbook now includes Canada and Mexico!!!



**LAST CHANCE!**

The HCRA is again offering Callbooks!

We will have a limited number of new 1986 US and DX Callbooks. The cost is \$18.00 each, either edition. You can order yours today by contacting Ron Beauchemin, WB1ETS, 75 Robinson Rd., West Springfield, MA 01089

Dues are \$9.00 per season, September thru June. Please mail to: N1AEH, Greg Stoddard, 1500 Mapleton Avenue, Suffield, CT 06078. Thank you!

# VOLUNTEER EXAMINER NEWS

Here's the latest news and information about the HCRA's Volunteer Examiner Program.

The only test date scheduled right now:

=> Saturday, December 14th<=

9:00 a.m., in the Wilbraham High School, on Main Street. Walk-ins are ok, but arrive early so the paperwork can be completed. All classes of license will be tested. Bring your original license and a copy, and any certificates you've received from other VE sessions. More and more walk-ins are coming to each exam session. Keep in mind that only the people who have signed up ahead are guaranteed an exam! Walk-ins are taken only on a space available basis. Don't be disappointed, sign up ahead of time! Students from our licensing classes will be crowding in to upgrade at this session especially!

The October 19th session went very well, congratulations to all who upgraded:

|         |            |        |          |
|---------|------------|--------|----------|
| KAIMPA  | EXTRA      | WIAKB  | 20 wpm   |
| WAIHFF  | EXTRA      | WIVNE  | EXTRA    |
| KAI DUH | TECHNICIAN | KAIHSS | EXTRA    |
| KAINDA  | TECHNICIAN | WIFJN  | ADVANCED |
| KBITG   | EXTRA      | NICZX  | ADVANCED |
| WINWE   | ADVANCED   | WAIYYK | EXTRA    |
| WAI RWU | EXTRA      |        |          |

One candidate, a native of India who was already licensed as a VU2, passed exams through Advanced, including 20 wpm, and plans to return in December for the Extra! Note that seven hams upgraded at this session to Extra! That's great!

KIBXE, WAIEYF and KAIKPH were the VE's for this session. NBIR, WIUPH, N3BAO, WIKUL, WBIFIQ, KAIKRJ, WIUKR, and WBIGLX assisted. The club wants every extra class license to help with the VE Program.

On October 17th, FCC released a Public Notice alerting Amateur Radio Service applicants that editions of form 610 prior to that of June 1984 would no longer be acceptable for filing. Effective January 1, 1986, only the June 1984 and later editions of FCC form 610 may be used to obtain an Amateur license. Applying on the earlier forms will only delay your license; your application will be returned without action by the Commission and you'll be required to re-file!

The cost for the exam is going up. It'll be \$4.25 as of January 1, 1986.

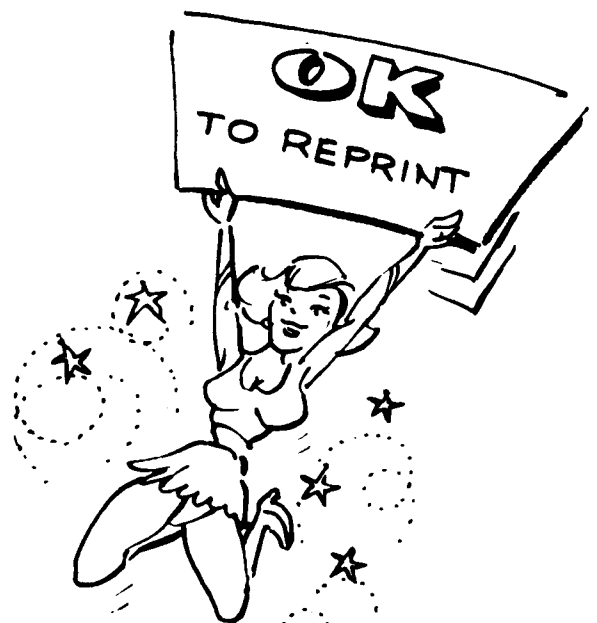
Now that the 30 day waiting period before re-testing has been dropped, the question of re-testing the same day that you fail has been raised. ARRL/VEC teams have the right not to re-test anyone at the same session!

## HCRA VIDEO TAPE LIBRARY

Thanks to the efforts of Yorke Phillips, KIBXE, the club now has a video tape library available for borrowing. Contact KIBE if you'd like to take one of these out.

1. Effects of RF & Microwave Radiation (1:03)
2. Fiber Optics (1:05)
3. Computer Protocol (1:08)
4. Spread Spectrum Techniques (1:15)
5. Limitations of RF Propagation (2:00)
6. Mobile Digital Communications (1:15)
7. High Definition Television (1:20)
8. Digital: A Revolution in TV (1:20)
9. ATV by W6ORG (:20) Moving Up To AR (:11)
10. Field Day Fever (:27)

These were copied from the ARRL's library, many thanks. They tend to be technical in nature, so if you're doing a show for a local civic group, maybe you'd want something more general. Personal tapes are also available.



Credit ZERO BEAT  
& the Hampden County  
Radio Association!

SILENT KEY: PLAN NOW.  
Opinion by KIBE

It's always sad to have one of our ham friends pass on. We all know that our turn awaits us. Plan now for the disposal of your ham radio equipment. Most wives have no idea what's in the shack, never mind its dollar value! Did you want to give your faithful telegraph key to a trusted friend for continued use? Will all your treasured club photos and mementos end up in the wood stove?

I would suggest you draw up a list to be kept in the ham desk or with your last will. (By the way, Massachusetts is not a good state to die in without a will. Two years after your death, the state and lawyers will be richer, but not your loved one!) Put on this list the name, address, and phone numbers of trusted hams willing to help dispose of your gear. Its a good idea to ask their permission first, but not essential. List all of your major pieces of paraphenalia, and their approximate value. Any small items you want friends to have could be mentioned. Large, expensive items should be included in your will. A problem with setting values is that even though you paid \$800.00 for that Yaesu transceiver, the company has issued six new models since. So today it might only be worth \$300.00. QST ads, yellow pages, and dealer's used equipment prices should be used for reference.

People are people, and no one believes that tomorrow is the day the angels will come for them. For people who never make up a list I'd like to suggest an informal club policy. To help out the family, the club president could recommend two club members to handle the estate. The family could pick one and have them do several things:

1. Inventory the equipment and set a cash value.
  - a. Make an "entire lot" purchase and re-sell the stuff to get the money back. (Sometimes takes a whole year!)
  - b. Agree to sell the equipment for the family gratis, or for 10% commission plus expenses.
  - c. Help the family sell the estate by providing the places to put ads, etc.

It is a true labor of love and hard work to

take care of an estate. If this policy is adopted, the club president should not buy any of the estate items to avoid hints of collusion.

Years ago one of our old time HCRA members was going into the hospital for brain surgery. He took the time to send along some old issues of "Zero Beat". He died during the operation but because of his thoughtfulness, the club now has some valuable historical records. You all enjoyed the series: "\_\_\_\_\_ Years Ago in Zero Beat". What better way to remember old friends? Set aside that HCRA memorabilia so that the club gets it.

'73 KIBE

"They are not gone, they are on the trail ahead."

**ARRL LIFE MEMBERS**

The HCRA has been trying to recruit new members into the American Radio Relay League. It is fitting that we here recognize the many LIFE MEMBERS of the ARRL who belong to our club.

|               |         |               |        |
|---------------|---------|---------------|--------|
| JIM SEBOLT    | WAIUDX  | A. ZAVARELLA  | WIKK   |
| L. NAGURNEY   | WA3EEC  | P. CARPENTER  | KIDFC  |
| KEN WALKER    | WIFAB   | WALT SMITH    | WBIFJK |
| Y. PHILLIPS   | KIBXE   | B. PHILLIPS   | WBIFLJ |
| B. WERENSKI   | WICJK   | P. CAPATO     | KIPKZ  |
| BOB TIPPITT   | WAIVAH  | R BEAUCHEMIN  | WBIETS |
| STEVE NELSON  | WAI EYF | BOB WILSON    | KAIXN  |
| NORM PEACOR   | KIJU    | JEAN PEACOR   | KIJV   |
| ED FOSTER     | WITTL   | CHICK BOILARD | WAIVCU |
| DON COURDERT  | KAICFE  | PERCY NOBLE   | WIBVR  |
| PETE MILLER   | WIDOD   | DAVE MILLER   | NICRT  |
| CLIFF JUNKINS | WIUWX   |               |        |

Congratulations to one and all! If you were left off this list by mistake, let us know, we want to recognize you.

Some other statistics: the HCRA has 51 amateurs with an Extra class license, 55 advanced class, and 60 General class licensees! Not bad for a club our size!

Born on Marconi's Day

Two historic events occurred in 1903: Marconi bridged the Atlantic, and I was born. My father was in the cotton mills and I came to the United States as a wee babe of 11 months. Sons were expected to follow their father's trade, but the mills weren't for me. I fixed radios for the chief electrician and through him became an electrician. Then I started showing films- first the silent ones, then the talkies! During the Depression I made \$65.00 a week, a princely sum in those days.

We're getting ahead of ourselves- in 1917 I earned the signaling merit badge which included flags and morse code. At age 14 my pal went into the Navy and gave me his antenna and back issues of "Wireless Age". I built a loose coupler, and used Murdock condensers and plate and Murdock earphones. Had a cat whisker galena crystal to copy NAA in Arlington, Virginia. (now WWV) That was rare DX in those days! WLC New London was on 24 hours a day handling ship to shore traffic which I copied. Then came vacuum tubes; I first had an Audiotron then a UV 200 detector and UV 201 amp.

When WBZA began voice broadcasting in Springfield from the Westinghouse roof with a dipole strung between two towers, (can still be seen today!) I listened to their "on air" tests in 1920.

Finally became W1KZU in '37. Got on 160 phone in 1938 and my cw went to hell. First store bought receiver was a Hallicrafter's SX 9! Earned WAS on December 1, 1939; WAC, April 1, 1940. In '38 I was running 100 watts with a pair of 809's. in '49 my first MOPA was on 21/2 meters.

After the war, Wes, W1LRE and myself built one of the first television sets in the area. Couldn't wait for channel six New Haven to come on the air. The excitement of seeing their test transmission is still recalled. When they would broadcast a fight, it was standing room only as the neighbors came over with beer. We use BC 645 tubes which cost the government \$1500.00 new, but we bought them at surplus for \$9.99. Western Electric doorknob tubes at .65 were run with the plate red hot. I built an electronic organ from instructions on 450 Mhz, our private duplex phone line!

The HCRA 25th anniversary party was in 1972 with Paul K1PKZ, president, and Jack Sheehan K1JNC as VP. I recall Les Horner, Gordon Cavanaugh and Dick Stevens and the "bachelor boys", always attending the ARRL conventions. I made all of them for years. Have a Ripley's "Believe it or Not" about Jack Binns, who sent the first SOS, one of his first wireless ops! No relation to me, but I met his daughter years ago on Long Island.

Not too busy on the bands nowadays. Did work JA7BM on March 4, 1980, Heather and Bill's DXpedition. Heard Heather say she and Bill were going to climb the hill with 20 meter gear. It was a real thrill to me!

Al Jackson, W1OQB got me interested in OSCAR 6. I still get a thrill out of listening to each pass, ascending or descending, and heard Art, W1KK, last week.

I've been married to the same gal for the past 56 years. Lived in Feeding Hills the past 49. Glad to have been HCRA member for all of these years, and to have seen how amateur radio has changed. Most of the Old Timers are now silent keys, but I'll say to all the new hams, "Keep up the good work!".

'73 Bert Binns, W1KZU

Editor's note: Bert saw a request for autobiographies in Zero Beat. He was very ill from the cancer that killed him when he wrote this. He died a month after it was printed.



# DPOSL

## HURRICANE GLORIA

Considering that Amateur Radio is supposed to be "back-up" communications, we in Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) did a lot of backing-up September 27th. I'm still receiving reports and thank you letters from agencies served. All five counties in Western Massachusetts were touched in some way by Gloria. ARES served National Weather Service, American Red Cross and local Civil Defense Agencies throughout the section. There were several evacuations, a multitude of power outages and some structural damage.

The single item that impressed me the most was that all agencies requesting assistance, even as back-up communications, got what they wanted and were most appreciative of the efforts of the individual amateur radio operator and ARES.

The nets that were run throughout the Western Massachusetts Section each had their own "flavor" and own niche of expertise. In looking over the reports from the Emergency Coordinators throughout Western Massachusetts, I find that slightly less than 300 hams took part in the nets. There were evacuation centers open on behalf of Red Cross and Civil Defense with amateur radio support at each center, Emergency Operations Centers manned with Amateur Radio Operators, all National Weather Service Offices, (Albany, Bradley, Worcester and Logan) had "on-site" stations, hospitals requesting "hams" in Belchertown and "on-site" stations, hospitals requesting "hams" in their emergency rooms had their requests filled, Red Cross Headquarters in Boston had liaison with Western Massachusetts and many chapter houses had amateur stations "on-site".

You may wish to serve one of these agencies. It's nice to be needed. When you take off the ARES, RACES, AMERICAN RED CROSS, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, OR RADIO CLUB "hat" that fits you right, you will find an Amateur Radio Operator underneath. I'm proud to be counted as a member of the Amateur Radio Service.

Dick Goodman, WB1HIH ARES/SEC/WM

This mission was a success, with many hams copying the signal on hand-helds and mobile.

W1NY re-transmitted the shuttle audio in the greater Springfield area on 146.595. WA1OCK did a bang up job and is to be congratulated! Did you listen in? Send us a note saying you want this to be continued.

For sale: Kenwood TS820S with 500 hz cw filter, manual, spare finals, \$450.00  
Fred 786-6705 This unit is mint!

## RG-8A Coaxial Cable Sale

A limited amount of this high-quality foam-core RG-8A coax is now on sale. Some local stores have been selling poor-grade cable for 37¢ per foot! Our coax is brand new, with 96% shielding. Here's your chance to save some money and get better performance.

Price: 500 foot roll, 18¢ per foot

100 foot lengths, 22¢ per foot

We'll bring your cable to the next HCRA meeting. You can order over the phone, but there is only a limited amount, and prepaid orders will be taken care of first. Odd lengths, 27¢ per foot.

Mail to: Jeffrey J Duquette, K1BE  
P O Box 346  
Southwick, MA 01077  
Phone Day 413-730-3253

Make checks payable  
to  
"Jeffrey J Duquette"

Evenings (Before 9 pm!) 413-569-6739

Loss in db per 100 feet

| TYPE     | IMPEDENCE | 3.5 Mhz | 7 Mhz | 14 Mhz | 21   | 28   | 50   | 144 Mhz |
|----------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|------|------|------|---------|
| RG 8/U   | 52 ohms   | 0.3     | 0.45  | 0.66   | 0.83 | 0.98 | 1.35 | 2.5     |
| RG 8 A/U | -         | 0.25    | 0.36  | 0.53   | 0.67 | 0.80 | 1.1  | 2.0     |

Velocity factor of the RG 8 A/U is .81

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

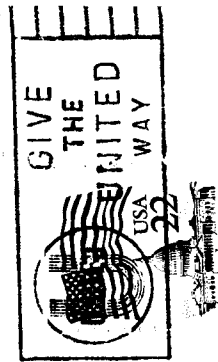
## 1985 - 1986 HCRA Meeting Schedule

|               |           |                     |
|---------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Friday        | 06-Dec-85 | DX                  |
| Friday        | 03-Jan-86 | VHF & Repeaters     |
| Friday        | 07-Feb-86 | Computers in TV     |
| Friday        | 07-Mar-86 | HF propagation      |
| Friday        | 04-Apr-86 | Special speaker     |
| <u>Sunday</u> | 04-May-86 | Annual Flea Market  |
| Friday        | 06-Jun-86 | Annual June Banquet |

### Other events:

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Dec. 13th    | MTARA Xmas Party   |
| Dec. 14th    | NOBARC Xmas Party  |
| January 26th | NOBARC Meeting     |
| Feb. 23rd    | " "                |
| March 2nd    | MTARA Flea Market  |
| March 30th   | NOBARC Meeting     |
| April 26-28  | Dayton Hamfest     |
| May 11th     | Deerfield Hamfest  |
| May 18th     | NOBARC Flea Market |
| May 25th     | NOBARC Meeting     |
| June 7-8     | VHF Contest        |
| June 28-29   | FIELD DAY!         |

**VHF SWEEPSTAKES**  
**JAN 11TH & 12TH**  
**1986**



Hampden County Radio Association  
P.O. Box 482  
West Springfield, MA 01090

ACIT E Y 10/86

FIRST CLASS