

# ZERO BEAT

A Monthly Publication  
of the  
Hampden County Radio Club  
Springfield, Mass.

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President, Victor Paounoff WLEOB Secretary, Clarence Bordeau WLIJT  
Vice-President, Richard Stevens WIQWJ Treasurer, Robert A. Adolphson WINLE

THE NEXT ham get-together will be at 7:30 P.M., Friday, February 4, 1949 at the Hampden County Improvement League Building, Eastern States Exposition Grounds, West Springfield. At the time we went to press, we had not heard which of several possible speakers would favor us but we can assure you of a worthwhile program. The next meeting of the ten meter net will provide the latest information. At our last meeting Walter Ross, 1QJQ; Glen Guernsey, 1RRW; and Leo Jarvis, SWL were voted in by the membership. Our heartiest welcome, follows and we hope you will enjoy the club as much as we will enjoy having you with us.

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AGAIN we treated our visitors right, the January door prize going to Ralph Whitaker guest of INLE. He received a hand drill, adjustable for different positions, from T. F. Cushing, 1AWW. Hope to see you around regularly, Ralph - how are you doing on preparations for your ticket?

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HATRY & YOUNG'S impressario, Murray Dressler, 1JTY, has some good news for this coming meeting - he plans to donate one of the very fb plate transformers that you have seen at the store recently, for the door prize. Don't miss a chance for one of those; they are one of the best surplus deals we have seen.

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THE JANUARY MEETING was both instructive and constructive. Al Purseglove, 1QFB gave us the lowdown on some of the local TVI problems, causes and cures. Much of the material he covered was extremely timely and several of the boys were seen taking notes! Ike Creaser, 1UD spelled out the Emergency aims for our section and reviewed the experiences of the local gang during the New Year's flood emergency. 1NY and 1EOB collaborated on an explanation of the traffic net system for Western Mass., New England, and the nation as a whole and Ike has undertaken to distribute a diagram of the traffic organization system so that we all will have access to the information when the need arises. It was agreed by all that we should strive for better organization of our EC group and plans are being made for a monthly practice session.

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ANOTHER Associate Member has made the grade and we now welcome to the full membership ranks, W1RVW, Rollin Pederson. Pete's converting a Wilcox fixed fq. receiver like 1QWJ's for ten meters and is also working over a BC645 for hi-fq. work.

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DUE TO PRESSURE of other activities, Max Voigt, 1QXV, has resigned as a member of the Executive Committee. In accordance with the By-laws which provide for the filling of vacancies, the Executive Committee has appointed W1RVW to serve in that capacity.

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THE VHF SWEEPSTAKES received a good share of attention from the Hampden County gang, at least so the rumor goes, but few thought enough of the club to bother to send in their score for club credit, so the few scores we are able to publish below are the result of hearsay - with the exception of 1RFU, 1QWJ and 1NLE who turned theirs in personally. Special thanks to 10JV who fired up 220 mc. at some inconvenience to add a few points to the Club's scoring.

1RFU	560	1QXV	48
1QWJ	216	10JV	4 - 220 mc.
1QCC	108	1LRE	2 - 420 mc.
1NLE	60		

There were others but they are keeping their scores a secret.

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SIX METER ACTIVITY hit a new high during the past month with 1QWJ, 1RFU and 1QCC quite active on the band during the VHF contest. 1QWJ says the ten meter ground-hogs are passing up a good bet by not operating 6 meters in the evening. The 6 meter band is not related harmonically to the local TV channels, hence it is a good way to cure your TVI troubles and at the same time operate on a band that has much better ground wave propagation than 10 meters. Try 6 and see for yourself. A good example is 1IGJO, ex-4GJO who puts an S9 plus signal into the Springfield area from Brookfield. The Horse Traders meet every Tuesday night on 6, by the way.

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WHILE WE ARE ON THE VHF subject we would like to announce a contest, the aim of which is to increase the population on 6, 2,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  meters and 420 mc. The club is offering four prizes of \$5. each for VHF work, as follows:

1. Most states worked on 6 meters.
2. Most states worked on 2 meters.
3. Greatest distance worked on  $1\frac{1}{4}$  meters.
4. Greatest distance worked on 420 mc.

Portable operation will be counted on  $1\frac{1}{4}$  meters and 420 mc only. The contest, open only to members of the Hampden County Radio Club will run from February 1, 1949 to December 31, 1949. Verified contacts only will be counted. 1KZU and 1LRE are already thinking of what they will do with the \$5. offered for 420 mc. Let's get a few more on the band and make them earn their money.

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IT WAS GOOD to hear from Mac and Cookie and their bouquets were appreciated. In case you missed the announcement at the last meeting - Mac is a neighbor of the new QSL manager and will pick up our cards for us and send them to 1IJT. This will clean out a drawer or two for 1JNX, our QSL manager and once this is done we can all turn over a new leaf and keep him well supplied with envelopes.

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NET TOPICS: The eighty meter Western Mass. net is functioning smoothly with 1EOB, 1NY, 1BVR and 1IJT representing the club. There is a great need however for more Springfield members and any one interested will be more than welcome. We are glad to take back what we said about the ten meter net's slowing down. December 30th 12 showed up; January 6th, 10; January 13th and 20th, 14 each. Nice going fellows and keep it up. The organization of a two meter net is in the making and Bill Rosner, 1RFU will be pleased to hear from all and sundry enthusiasts. See Dick Stevens, 1QWJ for information regarding a 6 meter net. Russ Hobbie 1RMU, who by the way is our most consistent correspondent, has been very active in the forty meter SSN and has been rolling up very respectable traffic totals. Russ also tells us that although he is not starting a Teenagers' net, he has been active in the 40 meter Teenagers' net which meets on 7150 kc, 3:45 P.M., Wednesdays and 11:20 P.M. Saturdays. I'm sure that the Western Mass. boys would be delighted to have you come up on eighty, Russ.

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TWENTY METERS was given a good going-over by Bob Leison, 1KFV and Bob gives out with some DX gossip about the local boys. It seems that prexy Paounoff is becoming DX conscious. Vic came up with such stuff as VQ2, CR6, VP1, VP2 and last but not least a VR4! Nice going. LAVK has a beautiful looking pile of aluminum up on his pole now, a three element ten over a three element twenty. All set for a high phone score

in the coming DX contest, Lou? Frank Cushing, 1AWW has been heard more frequently on the band of late. Down Connecticut way Gil Williams, 1APA sez the band ain't what it used to be but Gil worked the VR4 too and that ain't so bad! Bert Adams, 10AQ has been burning some midnight oil and accounting for his share of DX - you can hear him most any night; if you can stay up that late. When Bob gave us the above info he said nothing about an all-night vigil he kept himself, the other night, to the tune of YKLAB, W0MCF/C3 and KH6VP/VR4. (Yes, that's the VR4 we have been talking about.) That made three new countries in one night for Bob which isn't an everyday occurrence after one passes the 150 mark!

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THE RESULTS of last June's ARRL Field Day are out in this month's QST. The club's low-frequency standing in the three transmitter class under W1NY's call was 29th out of 69 entrants. Considering the fact that the main generator konked out at 6 A.M. Sunday morning and we couldn't operate at all on Sunday we didn't do too badly. Our high-frequency efforts under W10BQ's call in the two transmitter class showed up as 11th out of 16. 10BQ's score would have compared even better had it been entered in the club class rather than as an individual's score. Both scores were an improvement over the previous year but just wait until this coming June!

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WE PICKED UP a little gossip around Uncle Dudley's cracker barrel the other night and learned that the reason the Electric Light Company is rushing completion of the new power station across the river is to take care of some of the boy's "Massachusetts Kilowatts". Out Wilbraham way there are rumors of new mobile rigs and any one having trouble with the correct installation may call W1NY on either 2, 10, 11, 40, 75, or 80 c.w. or phone. Be sure you call on the land line first to find out what band he is on. That new three element beam that 1QFB installed some few months ago, has now been tuned "engineer like" to a gnat's hair, and as he has been working Js consistently, it must be just about right. 1NLE is wondering why the drive-belts on receivers have to break just when he is getting ready to fire up the newly assembled 2 meter rig. 1DXW will soon be on with high power, and we understand no harmonics. 1RRW's ten meter mobile is a successful reality, and we hear he's about to design a DX receiver to pick up those stations in Texas and Alabama the local boys hear frantically answering Glen's husky CQs. 1MOK is really pouring in at the listening post from his new spot high up in the ten meter band. 1PHU's new rig is driven by an RT18 and promises good results. Watch out for that powerful recorder installed at a certain west-side QTH. You'll be hearing yourself as others hear you. Don't take our word for it, ask Roger Dodger Roger. 1NY is really interested in the proposed new Sixteen Acre fire station. 1UD and 1IJT were visiting Hank when his ten meter rig started to go up in smoke, not much damage tho.

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THE PARTICIPATION in operating activities sponsored by the ARRL has, to date, been regrettably feeble. We have become resigned to this lack of interest, and have adopted the attitude that if you don't get into the fun, it is your own hard luck. However, we do want to see the club grow and become well known; and a good club score submitted in every contest in an excellent means to this end. We have reason to believe that the coming DX contest will draw out a few more entries than we have had in the other contests. No one expects to win a DX contest without a beam and an all-band KW, but every one can have fun no matter what band they are on or how much power they run - so what say gang? This time please send in your scores to W1JYH for compiling and forwarding. We don't want a copy of the log; just a summary of the scores so that we can add 'em up and make a good showing for the Club.

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SPEAKING of contests - the ARRL Member Party survived a spell of poor conditions and, although it is somewhat early, we have scores as follows:

CALL	STATIONS	SECTIONS	SCORE
W1JYH	309	61	42178
W1EOB	262	60	36540
W1RFU	130	33	11022
W1IJT	26	15	1530

Al Purseglove 1QFB was also active but we haven't had time to hear from him as yet.

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OUR 420 MC PERENNIAL, Wes Thayer, LLRE wants to hear from any one who has equipment for frequencies higher than 420mc. Wes complains that with all the fellows about to invade the 420 mc band, he is afraid the QRM will get too bad so he is looking for less crowded frequencies.

WE'LL BCNU FRIDAY SO 73 TILL THEN