

Z E R O B E A T

Vol. 11 No. 2 Hampden County Radio Assn., Inc. January, 1958

Editors: Tom Shea, W1HYO Publishers: Bob Gordon, W1KUL
 Howard Cutting, W1JTV Tom Barrett, W1KUE
 Eunice Gordon, W1UKR

DECEMBER MEETING The old Captain Leonard House was a-bulging with over 90 club members and their guests the night of December 6th when we staged our annual Christmas get-together. Brother member Frank Cushing put on a series of Abbot and Costello movies that had everyone aching with laughter. The HCRA Board of Trade was put into action, to be managed by that capable trade master, Art Zavarella. Some members didn't forget to bring small presents that were exchanged around with great interest, especially by the youngsters. As a grand finale, the ladies auxiliary of the Wilbraham entertainment committee aided by some of the XYL's of the Board members served home made cake, cookies, punch and coffee from a gaily decorated refreshment table. Everyone commented that it was one of the best and biggest parties ever.

JANUARY MEETING The January meeting of the club will be held at the Capt. Leonard House in Agawam at 8 P.M. on Jan. 3, 1958. On the agenda is a chalk talk by W1RFU, Bill Rosner, on crystal controlled converters for both the HF and VHF bands. Bill will also have the latest dope on the VHF contest that starts the very next day. A portion of the meeting will be devoted to displaying some of the "gadgets" that have been built by members for their shacks to make operation easier or more unique. All members having same are requested to bring them along, and don't fret about their looks...its the operation that counts. Lined up so far is an inexpensive field strength meter, a Monimatch Mark 2 and a combination c.w. monitor and code practice oscillator using an inexpensive transistor. Also, service equipment consisting of a grid dip meter, signal generator, signal tracer, vtvm, and tube tester, as well as people who know how to use them, will be there to help you to get the bugs out of any piece of gear you may bring along. This will be of special interest to VHF men who need help getting last minute adjustments before the contest. Also featured will be a free door prize with a value of about four dollars. Feel lucky???

VHF CONTEST Just a last minute reminder that Jan. 4 & 5, 1958 is the ARRL sponsored VHF contest that we have dedicated ourselves to beat the Hartford Gang. We won over the Hartford club in 1954 and 1957. to make up for the beatings we took in 1955 and 1956. On the national scale our club record stands:

1951	8th	1955	4th
1952	11th	1956	4th
1953	5th	1957	4th
1954	5th	1958	???

Remember to bring any VHF xtals or extra gear of any kind to the meeting next Friday so they can be put to the best possible use during the contest.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT Our 1957 roster carried a paid up membership of 117. Already for the current year 1958, 79 have joined or re-joined (a gain of 25 from last month) and we feel sure that as the Christmas time pressure on the pocketbook decreases, more and more will join to smash the 1957 number.

BOARD MEETING On Friday, December 13th, the meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the CD headquarters in the town of Wilbraham. Reports of the membership and badge committees were heard, and the agenda of the coming meeting discussed. Our genial fellow member, Tom Ferguson, W1WFL, was appointed to serve out the unexpired term as Vice President until next June. Because of the pressure of personal business our elected Vice President, Ralph Robinson, W1ICW, had tendered his resignation. The adoption of a student membership classification was considered favorably by the board whereby club members occupied full time as students might pay \$1.50 per year as dues after being members for 1 year at the regular rate of \$3.00 per year.

ARRL DUES & MEMBERSHIPS For the benefit of the newer members of the club we are taking this means of notifying them that it is possible to pay their ARRL dues through the club. This presents a convenience to them (and the saving of a stamp if you will) as well as giving a small source of needed revenue to the club. The ARRL dues, which include the subscription of QST magazine, are \$4.00 per year. If you pay this sum to the club secretary he will forward your application, or renewal card, to League headquarters along with a check for only \$3.50. The remaining \$.50 goes into the club treasure. In this manner, at no extra cost to you, you will have secured your membership in the League and contributed to the club at the same time.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE The Agawam contingent, led by Wes Thayer and Art Zavarella, has kindly consented to take on the chores of providing the refreshments and cleaning up at the January meeting. So if the eats aren't in evidence,....see Wes or Art

CONVERTING 522 to 6 Addenda for converting the 522 to 6 meters.
ELIMINATING THE BIAS... (1) Unground the 12A6 modulator cathodes, and return to ground through a 225-250 ohm, 5 watt resistor. (2) Remove the load from terminal 4 of the modulator driver transformer (part number 159) and ground the terminal to the chassis. (3) Replace the 6000 ohm grid resistor of the 832A amplifier with one of 15,000 ohms. This resistor is mounted on the partition separating the audio and r.f. sections of the transmitter, and alongside plug 123-2.

POWER CONNECTIONS... Power connections to plug 123-2 are as follows: 300 volts to pins three or four (they are connected together). Bias, if used, to pin one; hot filament to pin two; and pin eight is the common ground.

MICROPHONE... A single button carbon microphone with a three-volt battery in series, connects between pin one of plug 123-1 and ground.

TVI & BCI TROUBLE The causing of interference to reception on frequencies not allotted to the ham bands, through some error no doubt, has caused many a headache and even some hard feelings amongst neighbors. In the absence of a formal TVI & BCI committee at this time the following procedure is to be followed. If you are having

interference troubles that you feel you can not solve by yourself, contact the club secretary. He will, in turn, notify the members of the board and action will be taken to locate experienced personnel to help you correct the situation. Conversely, when you have succeeded in clearing up such trouble, notify the secretary so that he may file the information for future use in similar cases.

WARD ASHE'S COLUMN Everyone, but everyone, is going to be on the air for the club during the contest. I think that is indicative of a healthy club. The list of stations printed in the special issue was most impressive and although most of the calls are new to me I'll be glad to work them. That is, if I can finish getting my old "Salvage Sally" up on two meters. (remember her on five meters?) I'm still reserving judgment on them new officers but if we are going to have free door prizes again, as I hear it rumored, I will take my hat off to them. I go for a something for nothing deal every time! How come nobody around here is on the 420 mc band; I listen every day and never hear anyone.

Ed. note- Call "CQ" and see what happens...

Ed. note #2- The free door prizes will continue at every meeting as long as revenue to support them comes in. (Info from club pres. W1NY via land-line).

AUCTION NOTES As previously announced in the special issue the auction has been postponed until the February Meeting. The reasons for this were: the fact that we would have more cash after the generally expensive Christmas season, much work was to be done before a really good auction could be held, and to allow sufficient time to line up some good gear and not "Cellar junk". Also a list of expected items should be prepared and, if possible, published. As it stands now a complete up-to-date and well equipped shack is already listed to be auctioned off piecemeal. Bob Gordon, W1KUL has consented to do the auctioneering honors. If you have any gear to be auctioned, list it with him and we'll try to give it advance notice in Zero Beat.

W1JJO REPORTS Wilbrahamite W1HDM has a new home brew rig on 6 meters using a 6146 in the final and VFO controlled. Speaking of 6146's, the one used by W1DGA enabled him to work across the Atlantic into Sweden on 6 meter phone. W1MTV and KN1BRZ have just finished major alterations to their shacks. W1HMN and W1HUN are sporting Saturn 6 halos on their cars. Did you ever see one on a Thunderbird???

CONELRAD NOTES As we all know we are required by law to have some form of a CONELRAD monitor in our shack. If you have an unusual or inexpensive or simple one that you use, how about bringing it to the meeting as a gadget we might like to copy. During a conelrad alert we must tune to 640 kc or 1240 kc. Do you have any means of receiving them in the event of a power failure? a simple crystal set is economical and easy to build, probably out of your junk box, but don't wait until you need it to build it. If you are "flush" a low battery-drain transistor portable is the thing. If the FCC considers it imperative that we monitor doesn't it follow that we should consider it worth while to be sure to be able to listen? OR CAN'T IT HAPPEN HERE???

KNOW YOUR OFFICERS Our club secretary, Norm Forest, started in amateur radio in 1950 with the call W1STR. In 1952 he moved to Plainfield N.J. and his call was changed to K2CPZ; but he regained his old call when he returned to WI land in 1953. Proud father of a son of five years (not a ham yet) and a daughter of three years (ditto) Norm is a teacher of Physics at Springfield's Technical High School. In his spare time at the school, Norm supervises a class in code and theory for about 10 prospective hams. At home, on his antenna farm, he can be heard on the air up to 10 meters with his Viking 1 and on 6 and 2 with a converted T23 ARC 5.

Around ham radio since getting the call W1BGI in 1929, Bill Kirby can rightly be called an "old timer". Employed by Pioneer Valley Plastics in Chicopee, Bill is again building "1929 transmitters" as he calls the self-excited oscillators used as high frequency generators for heating the plastics. For the contest Bill will be operating on 6 meters, but his favorite band is 21 mc. c.w. where he can be heard romping along with a "bug" he built 25 years ago.

W1JWV had extensive damage to his roof and his antennas thereon by high winds this week.

CORRECTIONS The list for the contest should have the following corrections:

List should read W1HRV instead of W1HRU
W1IDJ is no longer in our club area

Anyone receiving this issue of ZERO BEAT in the mail has been cleared as being eligible for club scoring.

GO GET 'EM AND HOPPY NUE YEER!!!!

		list	sell
FOR SALE	1 Thordanson 6.3V 6 Amp Transformer	\$4.35	\$2.50
	1 Thermador 6.3V 8 Amp Transformer	4.26	2.50
	1 Western Electric 255A Keying relay	15.00	5.00

with instructions.

And many many more items. Contact Bill Harrington at RE 3-5434 or watch the Board of Trade at the meeting for a larger list.

QUIZ Not to be outdone by AST or CQ magazines, Zero Beat is going to run its own quiz column. To start things going we have a simple one for you to sharpen your wits on. In an actual case, one of our members had to overcome this dilemma during his wartime service in Italy. He had to wire two motion picture projectors in such a way that he could turn one off and the other one on from either machine location, and also turn the first on and the second off from either location. The catch was that he had to use commercial switches. We'll print the answer in next month's issue if we can figure it out or he gives us the answer.