

Zero Beat

Our 40th ARRL affiliated year
Special Service Club

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Serving Greater Springfield, MA

1988 VHF Sweeps

Its January again and that means its time for the annual running of the January VHF Sweepstakes contest. The next HCRA meeting will be dedicated to the VHF Sweepstakes. In addition, you'll note that this issue of *ZERO BEAT* is jam full of useful things for your participation in the 1988 January VHF Sweepstakes.

To continue the HCRA's tradition, we are looking for your support in the January 1988 contest. So dig out that seldom used equipment and make plans to be on the air the weekend of January 23rd through the 25th, 1988.

W1NY Activity

The HCRA club station W1NY will be again active on all bands throughout the contest. The W1NY operators would sincerely appreciate a contact from you to boost their score. Last year we had our best club effort ever! We hope that we will again set a new record in 1988!

If you are interested in participating in the W1NY effort, we'd be glad to hear from you. Please contact any of the following club members: Art W1KK, Fred N1DPM, John AC1T, or Frank NC1I.

Club Competition

Only the January VHF contest has the aggregate club entry. All HCRA members are urged to submit a log,

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even if you only work two contacts, to the ARRL to help with our club score!

Participation in this contest is easy and fun. QSO as many stations as you can on as many bands as you have equipment for (of course, 6m and above). Even if all you have is a pair of HT's: one for 2m and one for 70cm, you can work lots of people!

If you don't like contesting you can still help in our effort to take first place nationally! Last year we came close, surely with your support this year we have a good chance! If you spend a few minutes or even an hour on the air giving out contacts it will help increase the scores of those who are logging for contest points.

Contest Details

If you have the time to log your QSO's you can help with our combined club score by sending in your logs — its that simple! Now for the details:

The contest starts at 1900 UTC on Saturday January 23, 1988. For those of you who don't usually deal with UTC (GMT) that's 2PM local time. The contest runs through 0400 UTC Monday January 25, 1988, which is really Sunday night at 11PM. There are many national and local activity times during the contest. See the complete list in this month's *ZERO BEAT*!

**Watch for W200NY
6-12 February, 1988**

Exchange

This has to be the easiest contest for exchanges. All you have to pass along is your grid square. For those of us who reside in Western Massachusetts the grid square is FN32. To the south in CT the grid square is FN31. The exchange of signal reports is optional. So using any voice mode you may say: fox november thirty-two. And on CW it would be: well, its pretty hard to do on paper, but you know!

Hopefully you can log your contacts, and turn in your score for inclusion with the club's effort. Included in this issue of *ZERO BEAT* is a log sheet. You only have to write the date and band info when it changes. For each contact jot down the time, the call of the station you worked, and the grid square of the other station. The Mult column can be used to keep track of those QSO's where you work a new grid square. And the small column with no heading can be used to check for duplicates. Of course, at the top of each page you would fill in the boxes with your call, your grid square, and sequentially number your log sheets. This log page also has some free space to the right (called notes) where you can scribble notes!

Summary Form

When the contest is through you should fill out the VHF Sweepstakes form, also included in this issue of *ZERO BEAT*. As with the log sheets,

indicate your call, grid square, and ARRL section in the boxes at the top of the form. Then check which station category you fall into: most of you will check the single operator station category, and if you work more than one band, the multiple band selection.

Then count the number of QSO's you made on each band and fill in the boxes in the QSO's column. As you can see, the higher in frequency the more points a contact is worth. Compute the QSO points by multiplying the QSOs times the multiplier on the form. Then count the number of different grid squares you worked for each band, and fill in the boxes in the grid² mult column. Finally compute your score for each band you worked by multiplying the QSO points by the grid squares.

Then figure your total score: this is what counts! Add up all the numbers in the following columns: QSO's, QSO Points, and Grid² Mult. Then multiply the Total QSO Points by the Total Grid² Mult to get your Total Score! (Note: Your Total Score will not equal the total of your band scores, so be careful!)

And of course, sign and date the form, fill in your return address (you may win an award!), and note any comments about the contest on the reverse side.

Don't Delay!

All entries to the League must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the end of the contest. So if you make an effort to log your contacts please don't forget to send in the materials!

You have two choices on submitting your logs. If you have no problems filling out the summary

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form you should send it directly to the League. If you have any problems or questions please mail them to the club mailing address: P O Box 482, West Springfield, MA 01090-0482. We will forward your logs to the League after we check them for accuracy. Its easy!!

For More Info...

Further information can be found in the December 1987 issue of *QST* on page 80, where the complete rules for the 41st January VHF Sweepstakes can be found. Or any of us would be glad to help you with the forms, or any other questions you may have. Visit us at the next club meeting on January 8th for more assistance.

Winning is a club effort—one that we hope you'll participate in!

February Meeting

Plan to bring a potential novice with you to the February Meeting. The new film "The New World of Amateur Radio" will be shown.

There will also be informal discussions of how to get involved with amateur radio. Suggestions on the program will be welcome.

See Yorke, K1BXE

ServiceMaster

Drapes cleaned in place in your home! Carpet and furniture cleaning! Call the office and mention my name. Questions? Call me at home at 413.786.7856

Jeffrey Duquette K1BE

All the best in 1988
from the HCRA Board!

VE Exams

On December 12th the last 1987 HCRA VE Session was held at Minnechaug Regional High School, Wilbraham, MA. There were four VE's in attendance, NJ1E Bill, WA1EYF Steve, N1AEH Greg, and Yorke K1BXE.

In addition to the Springfield area candidates, one Novice candidate came from Lowell, one Technician candidate from Rhode Island, and a second from Gardner, MA.

Chet Szydowski KC1CC and Ken Doerpholz KC1CA upgraded to Extra. Watch for Ken's 2X1 call.

Ted Wallace KA1RFI and John Malone KA1OUM upgraded to Technician.

Vincent Green WB1CRM, who came from Rhode Island, upgraded to General.

The 1988 Saturday VE schedule, to be held at the Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, MA, follows. All sessions start at 8:30 AM. Other dates and locations for Volunteer Exams are being considered, let the board know of your interest.

1988 Saturday VE Exams in Wilbraham: 4-Mar-88, 13-Jun-88, 12-Sep-88, 10-Dec-88

Thanks

The HCRA would like to thank the following contributing editors and sources, who have brought you this month's issue: The *ARRL Letter*, KA1KPH, N1DPM, K1BXE, K1ZZ, ARRL

W200NY via KA1KPH

FCC & ARRL authorize HCRA for W200NY

The HCRA has received approval for the operation of its club station W1NY during the special Amateur Radio Celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. Bob KA1KPH, who is coordinating this special event, received written permission from ARRL Executive Vice President Save Sumner, K1ZZ, just prior to Christmas.

"On instructions from the FCC, the Hampden County Radio Association, is hereby authorized to operate [its club] station W200NY during the week of February 6 - 12, 1988 (from 0001 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Friday). This action is pursuant to the FCC Order of July 9, 1987, "Waiver of Section 97.84(a) to allow designated club stations to identify using a special 200 call sign," and FCC authority letter 7230-D, dated November 17, 1987.

"Details for the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution celebration can be found on pp. 14 - 16, September 1987 QST."

ARRL Secretary Perry Williams W1UED requested a waiver of the station identification requirement regulations of the amateur service rules to allow a limited number of designated amateur club stations to be authorized to use a special commemorative amateur call sign for the bicentennial. The FCC supported this request, noting that "the use of a special bicentennial call sign will enhance and highlight the operating aspects of the project... The ARRL believes that the use of a special commemorative call sign

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would enable amateur operators to recognize the significance of the bicentennial and encourage radio contact with the designated club stations during the celebration."

The FCC went on further to say "We believe that the ARRL's request has merit and is in keeping with our statutory mandate to encourage the larger and more effective use of radio in the public interest. Accordingly, the ARRL's request for a waiver of Section 97.84(a) is granted..."

A limited number of clubs all over the country have been approved to operate for one week using a special 200 callsign. The HCRA is proud to be one of the authorized clubs to participate in this program.

A complete list of states and operating dates can be found on pp 15 of September 1987 QST. Many states have already had their operations; maybe you've worked one or more of the special events stations. The rest will continue through December of 1988.

Plans are now underway for the HCRA W200NY operation in February. A special QSL card will be made available to anyone who works W200NY. . Multi-mode operation on HF and even VHF/UHF operation is planned. As this issue of ZERO BEAT goes together exact plans have not been made, as the approval was only recently received. The operation may partially take place in one or more public places.

It is desired to attempt to operate W200NY two shifts each day the authorization is in effect. Thus we are looking for individuals to operate during the daytime as well as evening hours. Club members with Amateur Extra class licenses are also

needed for control op duties. Station operators (any license class) are also needed. If you have any interest in operating special modes, I'd like to hear from you, too.

Please see me during the January HCRA meeting, or write to me at my mailing address: KA1KPH, Box 17, Feeding Hills, MA 01030. My work schedule makes it difficult to be reached by phone, so the next club meeting or via mail is the best way to get intouch.

W200NY QSL's will be via KA1KPH, at the above address, with an SASE, please!

Contest Aids

Specially designed logs, contest forms, and a grid square map is included in this issue of ZERO BEAT for your contesting pleasure. We hope that you have time to get on the air and rack up points for the club.

There is also a table of activity times that may help in planning your operating time. The national activity hours are valuable for single operator stations who want to make the most of a multi-band operation. Most of this activity occurs on SSB and CW, although many of the larger contest stations will also be readily available on FM during these times.

The local activity hours have been called FM activity hours; in this way the majority of the HCRA members who only have FM equipment can participate in the contest and rack up loads of points. These periods have been designed not to conflict with other contest operating events, local nets, etc and other activities.

continued onto the back page

Get your station
ready for the ARRL VHF
Sweepstakes
January 23-25, 1988

The FCC & ARRL
Approve
HCRA to Operate
W200NY

!!!

February 2-12, 1988
See inside for more info!

Dates to Remember

<u>1988</u>		1988
Jan	8	HCRA meeting
	23-25	VHF Sweeps
	29-31	CQ WW 160m CW
Feb	5	HCRA meeting
	6	YCCC meeting
	20-21	ARRL DX CW
	26-28	CQ WW 160m SSB
Mar	4	HCRA meeting
	5-6	ARRL DX SSB
	26-27	CQ WW WPX SSB
Apr	1	HCRA meeting
	9	YCCC meeting
May	6	HCRA meeting
Jun	3	HCRA meeting
	5	YCCC meeting

HCRA Meetings

First Friday of each month at
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Center of Feeding Hills
Intersection of routes 57 & 187
Doors open at 7:30 PM
Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM

ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
January 8th, 1988
Feeding Hills
Congregational Church
Feeding Hills Center

Future HCRA Meetings

<u>Club Meeting</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Board Meeting</u>	<u>Host</u>
8-Jan-88	VHF contest	12-Jan-88	WB1BZH
5-Feb-88	New World of Ham Radio	9-Feb-88	
4-Mar-88	Repeaters	8-Mar-88	
1-Apr-88	Telecommunications	5-Apr-88	
6-May-88	DX trip	10-May-88	
3-Jun-88	Annual Banquet	none	

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A larger and larger number of you have both 220 and 440 MHz HT's out there... your participation is very important during this contest. Please check out the activity times in the table, and handing out a few points. The operators at WINY are extremely interested in working you, for every local HT contact could mean an increase in the club station's score by hundreds and maybe even thousands of points! It *does* make a difference!

Suggested local FM frequencies are: 146.49, 146.55, 146.58, 223.50, 446.00 all mhz. Remember that 146.52 mhz is off limits to contesting!

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

P O Box 482

West Springfield MA 01090-0482

Forwarding & Address
Correction Requested

January 1988

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HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASS'N., Inc.

Affiliated Club of the American Radio Relay League

P. O. BOX 482 WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 01090

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

HCRA ANNUAL VHF/UHF/EME CONTEST MEETING

RESCHEDULED TO 7:30 PM FRIDAY

JANUARY 22, 1988

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

As we all know, the HCRA meeting for January 8 had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. This meeting is the annual VHF/UHF/EME meeting held just prior to the club competition contest. Our speakers Stan and Fred have promised an interesting evening to get warmed up for the contest, which starts the next day. Come and enjoy the fun!

Steve WA1EYF