

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

VHF Sweepstakes!

The January meeting will be a rally for the up and coming VHF contest. Fred, **N1DPM**, and Stan, **KA1ZE**, will give a talk on the contest, how it works, and how you can be part of it. Jack, **KA1KRJ**, who placed first on 2 meters last year, will also give a talk, and there will be a special surprise to help you get in the contest spirit. Extra log sheets will also be available at the meeting. The VHF contest is lots of fun, so come to the meeting and find out how you can get in on the action!

Callbooks Left

The club still has 6 North American callbooks that have not been spoken for. These callbooks will be available at the next meeting for \$24. The cover price is \$26, so you'll save \$2.

W1RED Schedule

Patrick Gleason, **W1RED**, who now lives in Marco Island, Florida, has informed us that he has a schedule with **W1CKP** every Friday at 5:00 PM local time on 14.260 plus or minus. They welcome anyone who may wish to chat with them to join in.

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Effective February 1, 1989, QSL cards bound for overseas will be shipped for \$2.00 per pound. Packages of 10 cards or less will continue to be distributed at the rate of \$1.00.

The ARRL outgoing QSL bureau has not increased fees charged for this valuable service to ARRL members since it's inception in 1976 despite the fact that postage has increased several times. (tnx, "The ARRL Letter")

KY1T Now CSTN

The **KY1T** PBBS is the new official Connecticut Section Traffic Node station, replacing **K1CE**. **KY1T** may be reached on 145.01Mhz. If you have any traffic going to Connecticut, you may wish to place it on this PBBS, thus saving a forwarding step. Note that **KY1T** is a traffic PBBS only, and is not for general messages. You may still leave your traffic on **W1NY-2** if you like, or you may place your Connecticut traffic directly onto **KY1T**.

Club Officers

- President—Phil Smith, **KA1MP**
- Vice President—Dave Bertagnolli, **N1EUZ**
- Treasurer—Greg Stoddard, **N1AEH**
- Secretary/Clerk—Jeanette Platanitis, **KA1MEW**

Board of Directors

- Jim Sebolt, **N1DUY**
- Ken Nickolls, **WB1BZH**
- Steve Nelson, **WA1EYF**
- Cliff Junkins, **W1UWX**
- Ed Goldberg, **WA1PLS**
- Yorke Phillips, **K1BXE**
- Stan Hilinski, **KA1ZE**
- Bob Lafleur, **NQ1C**

CW Competition

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society is pleased to announce it's CW competition for all New England amateurs to enjoy. The purpose of this competition is to encourage hams to operate CW at their own pace with the ultimate goal of an upgrade in 1989. We want to encourage folks who do not normally operate CW or lack some confidence.

Objective: Maximize the on-air CW experience for First Region amateurs who need to take a Morse code exam in 1989.

Eligibility: All First Region resident amateurs operating from one of the six New England states. (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, or CT)

Mode: CW only. ARRL bandplans must be observed. Terminal keyboards are not allowed for sending. Automatic decoding (i.e. modems) are not allowed for receiving. Extra sub-bands are excluded.

Repeat QSO's: The same station may be worked once every 24 hours on the same band. However, stations are encourage to answer CQ's and to call CQ.

Start date: January 1, 1989, 0000Z

End date: May 15, 1989, 2359Z

Information report: Logs are not required, but must be available for inspection upon request. A report for is available in the club newsletter (Spark Gap) or available by sending an SASE to the below address.

Categories:

- Most USA states. For state hunters (non-extra only). Supply states, calls, dates, times, and bands.
- Most DXCC countries. For DX hunters (non-extra only). Supply countries, calls, dates, times, and bands.
- Most QSO's. Useful towards that upgrade (non-extra only). Supply total QSO's, breakdown by band.
- Longest ragchew. For the conversationalists (non-extra only). Supply QSO duration, name, call, QTH, date, time, band, and the operator's favorite modes.
- Most QSO's extra. Extra class operators total QSO's. Supply total QSO's, breakdown by band.

Deadline: All results are due by June 15, 1989. Either deliver the report in person at a WARS meeting, or mail to CW Competition, Wellesley ARS, 211 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02181

Prizes: A special prize will be awarded to the winner of each category. The prizes will be distinctive momentos with the winner's callsign inscribed. The winners must claim their prizes at the Wellesley Red Cross building or make suitable arrangements for delivery of their prizes

The real prize is, however, increased Morse code skill. In the long run, everyone wins, especially those who upgrade and obtain new priveleges.

Two New Hams

We now have two new hams in the area from the novice class taught by Jack. **WAIYYK**. Adam Olson, who is 9 years old, passed the novice test, and Roy Sero passed the novice test and then went on to pass the technician test at the Dec. 7 VE session. Both are now waiting for their licenses from the FCC. Congratulations to both!

For Sale

11 meter mobile SSB, AM, FM rig partially converted to 10 meters. 3 position power 10 watts, 20 watts, and speech compressor. Nice, only used about 10 months. Contact **NMIK**.

Kenwood TS-130S Transceiver, 80-10 with 10Mhz, VOX PTT. Ten-Tec Model 277 Antenna Tuner/SWR Bridge. Ten-Tec Model 670 Keyer. Sawn MB80A Transceiver, Swan P1215A 120 VAC to 12 VDC supply. Astatic D104 desk mic. Astatic 531 hand-held mic. Tempo MHF 6-ch Xtal Control with TT Pad and desk charger. Heath HM-2102 UHF/VHF SWR/ power meter. All with manuals and good to excellent condition. Any resonable offer. Contact R.H. Phoenix, **WA1DNB** at 534-0450.

Amateur Radio Operators

by Carole Davis, xyl of N1FQO

At any time of the day or night, most notably as dawn breaks or dusk falls, an Amateur Radio operator will be doing what he loves best, making a contact. In nooks or corners, spare rooms, cellars or attics, the walls covered with maps and certificates sits the dedicated ham. For hours he will sit, twirling dials and flipping switches, talking with strangers, preferably in faraway places. The love of radio operation turns otherwise normal, intelligent, individuals into semi-recluses who talk to you of sunspots and solar flares, propagation and DX, and expect you to fully understand them. During contests, which blessedly occur only on weekends, they disappear from family life and return only for meals, if at all.

Everywhere they go, they must have some piece of radio equipment at hand so they don't miss a possible contact. In their cars they have a mobile radio; While walking or biking they have a portable radio and in the house they have elaborate combinations of receivers, transmitters, microphones and wires, lots of wires. Their backyards and roof lines are interrupted by antennae that sprout from roof peaks, chimneys and even trees.

(continued on next page)

Club Calendar

January, 1989	HCRA/West Exam VHF Contest Board Meeting	January 4 January 6 January 10
February	HCRA/West Exam Field Day Film Board Meeting	February 1 February 3 February 7
March	HCRA/West Exam < Suggestions Wanted > Board Meeting	March 1 March 3 March 7
April	HCRA/West Exam Sky Warn Board Meeting	April 5 April 7 April 11
May	HCRA/West Exam DX Board Meeting	May 3 May 5 May 9
June	Banquet HCRA/West Exam < No Board Meeting > Field Day	June 2 June 7 June 24-25

HCRA meeting are held at Feeding Hills Congregational Church at 8:00 PM.
Contact Phil Smith, **KA1MP** (413) 562-4731

HCRA/West Exams are held at Agawam High at 7:00 PM *sharp*.
Contact Jeanette Platanitis, **KA1MEW** (413) 786-1463

HCRA/East Exams are held at Minnechaug Regional High School, Wilbraham MA.
Contact Yorke Phillips, **K1BXE** (413) 566-3010

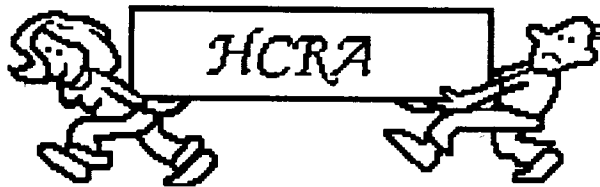
Local Nets

10 Meter Ragchew Net	Sunday 7:00 PM 28.400
Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net	Daily 9:30 PM 146.28/88
80 Meter Ragchew Net	Tuesday 8:00 PM 3.709 Mhz
WMPN	Daily 6:00 PM 3.937
WMSN	Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 PM 3.713
WMCWN	Daily 7:00 PM 3.562
WMTN	Monday-Friday 1:00 PM 146.31/91
CPN	Monday-Saturday 6:00 PM 3.965 Sunday 10:00 AM 3.965
Mt. Tom Information Net	Wednesday 7:30 PM 146.34/94
Mt. Tom Swap Net	Follows Mt. Tom Information Net
Mt. Tom Emergency Net	Sunday 8:45 AM 146.34/94
RASON	Daily 9:00 PM 146.13/73
WESCON	Daily 8:30 PM 147.78/18
CN	Daily 7:00 & 10:00 PM 3.640
CSN	Monday-Friday 7:30 PM 3.720
CSTN	KY1T PBBS, 145.01 Mhz

Their time is spent in dedicated pursuit of contacts around the world. They do, of course, fill a need; In case of national or international disaster they help to establish and maintain the lines of communication. To this end, they go to cow pastures, clearings and vacant fields once a year, in June, to practice establishing radio stations under adverse conditions. They spend two days erecting towers with antennae, powering radios with generators or batteries, existing in less than luxurious accommodations, they broadcast for twenty-four hours and then take it all apart until there is a need or the next field day comes around.

They also serve as communication links for local organizations during parades, marathons, bike-a-thons, and other activities that involve large groups of people over an extended area. Amateur Radio operators are intelligent, articulate individuals, many of whom are willing to work long hours for no pay in the service of their fellow man.

The next time you are at a community function, take a look around. Chances are you'll see a fellow with a hand-held transceiver. Go over and say hello, he just might be my husband.



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

Exam Fee Increase

The FCC announced that effective January 1, 1989, the maximum allowable fee for an amateur operator license exam administered by a VEC coordinated session during 1989 will be \$4.75. The present maximum allowable charge is \$4.56; ARRL/VEC charges \$4.55 for for amateur operator exams given by their VE's through December 31, 1988, after which the charge will be \$4.75.

The 19 cent increase authorized by the Commission is due to a 4.2 percent increase in the Department of Labor Consumer Price Index (CPI) between September 1987 and September 1988. (Tnx, "The ARRL Letter")



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Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
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Permit No. 1065

Forwarding & Address
Correction Requested

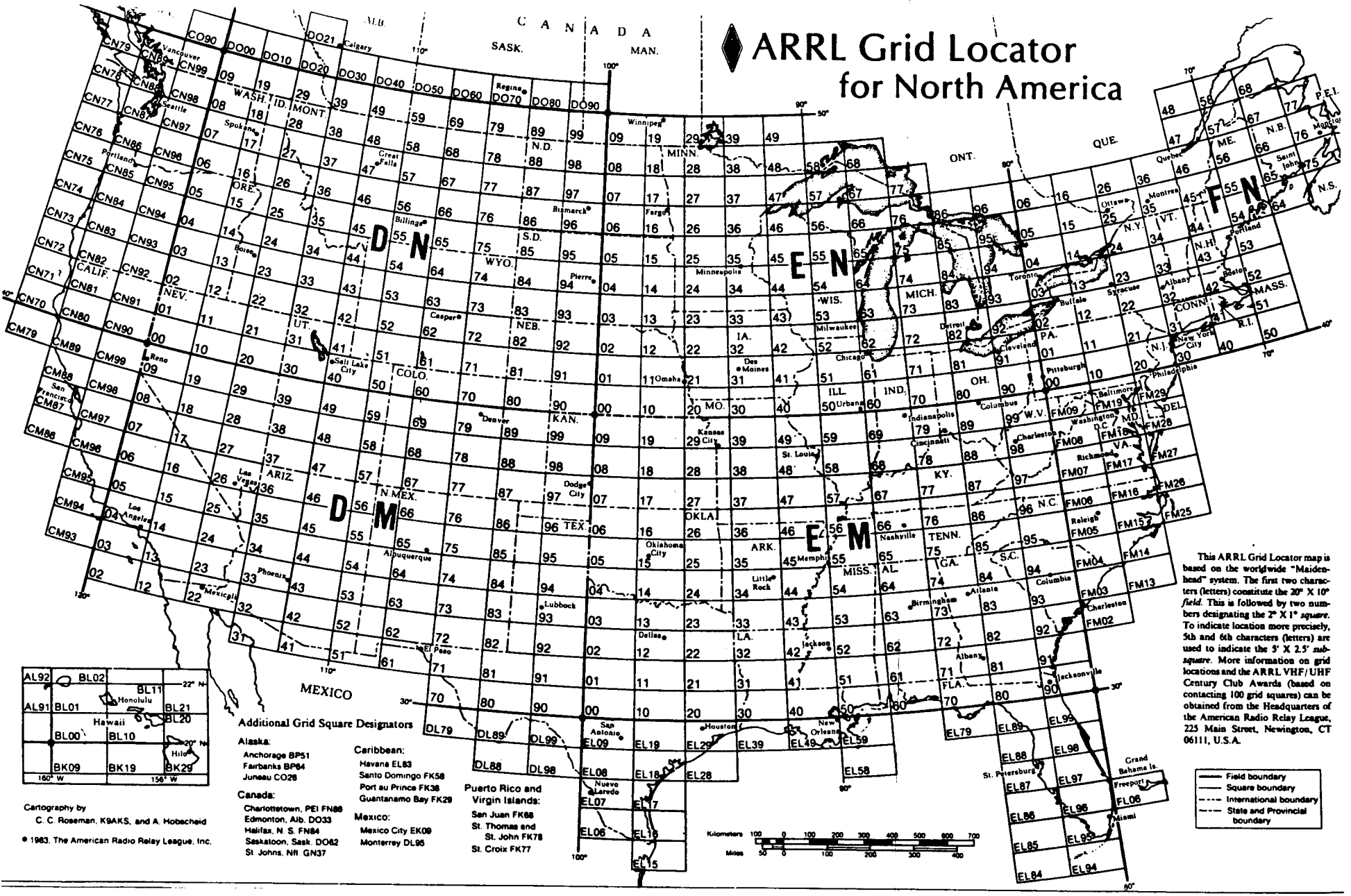
MAILED ON

DEC 28 1988

10/89 AC1T
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

*If your call is blue,
your dues are due.*

ARRL Grid Locator for North America

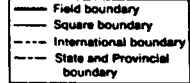
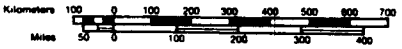


This ARRL Grid Locator map is based on the worldwide " Maidenhead " system. The first two characters (letters) constitute the 20° X 10° field. This is followed by two numbers designating the 2° X 1° square. To indicate location more precisely, 5th and 6th characters (letters) are used to indicate the 3' X 2.5' sub-square. More information on grid locations and the ARRL VHF/UHF Century Club Awards (based on contacting 100 grid squares) can be obtained from the Headquarters of the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111, U.S.A.

AL92	BL02	BL11
AL91	BL01	BL20
BL00	BL10	BL21
BK09	BK19	BK29

- Additional Grid Square Designators**
- Alaska:** Anchorage BP51, Fairbanks BP64, Juneau CO26
 - Canada:** Charlottetown, PEI FN88, Edmonton, Alb. DO33, Halifax, N.S. FN84, Saskatoon, Sask. DO62, St. John's, Nfld. GN37
 - Caribbean:** Havana EL83, Santo Domingo FK58, Port au Prince FK38, Guantanamo Bay FK29
 - Mexico:** Mexico City EK09, Monterrey DL95
 - Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands:** San Juan FK88, St. Thomas and St. John FK78, St. Croix FK77

Cartography by
C. C. Roseman, K9AKS, and A. Hobscheid
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VHF Contest Activity Hours

<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
2:00 PM		Sat	The contest starts!
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Sat	220 MHz activity hour
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	Sat	432 MHz activity hour
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Sat	1296 MHz activity hour
5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Sat	903 MHz activity hour
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Sat	6m activity hour
7:00 PM	8:00 PM	Sat	2m Local FM activity hour
8:00 PM	9:00 PM	Sat	220 MHz national activity hour
9:00 PM	10:00 PM	Sat	432 MHz national activity hour
10:00 PM	11:00 PM	Sat	1296 MHz national activity hour
11:00 PM	12:00 AM	Sat	903 MHz national activity hour
6:00 AM	7:00 AM	Sun	6m activity hour
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Sun	2m Local FM activity hour
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	Sun	220 MHz national activity hour
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Sun	432 MHz national activity hour
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Sun	1296 MHz national activity hour
11:00 AM	12:00 N	Sun	903 MHz national activity hour
12:00 N	1:00 PM	Sun	6m activity hour
1:00 PM	2:00 PM	Sun	2m Local FM activity hour
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Sun	220 MHz activity hour
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	Sun	432 MHz activity hour
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	Sun	1296 MHz activity hour
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Sun	6m activity hour
7:00 PM	8:00 PM	Sun	Local FM activity hour
8:00 PM	9:00 PM	Sun	220 MHz national activity hour
9:00 PM	10:00 PM	Sun	432 MHz national activity hour
10:00 PM	11:00 PM	Sun	1296 MHz national activity hour
	11:00 PM	Sun	The contest concludes!

W1NY on:

446.000 MHz FM

223.500 MHz FM

146.550 MHz & 146.580 MHz & 146.490 MHz

