

ZERO BEAT

10-84

HAMPODEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

SPRINGFIELD, MASS

OCTOBER 1984

ARRL AFFILIATED, 36th YEAR

NEXT MEETING:

Friday,

October 5th 7:30 pm

Feeding Hills Congregational Church, Feeding Hills, Mass
(Intersection of routes 57 and 187)

WOW!



K1BUB will show slides from his participation
in:

1984 OLYMPIC TORCH RUN!!!!

1980 WINTER OLYMPIC SPECIAL EVENT STATION!

PLEASE DO NOT SMOKE AT THE MEETINGS - IT'S A MESS TO CLEAN UP!!!

ANNUAL AUCTION!!!

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2ND, 7:30 PM

GRANGER SCHOOL
FEEDING HILLS, MASS

Same location as last year.
Club takes 10%, complete rules in next issue.

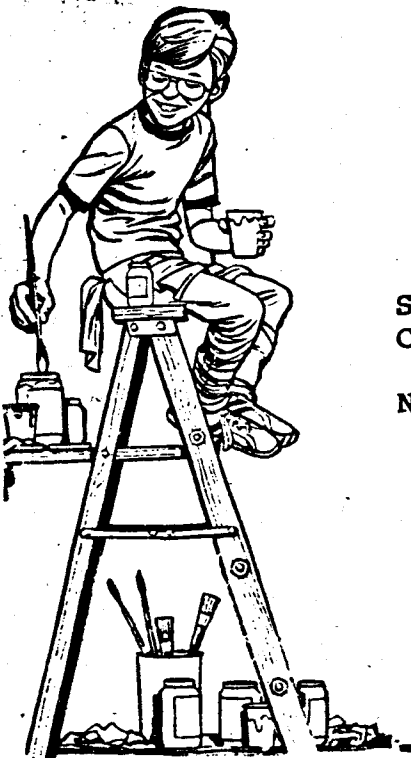
NOTE: Proceeds benefit the cost of printing

ZERO BEAT

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!!!

Empty out that attic, clean out that cellar!
Wives- here's your chance. While he's
at the grocery store, back up the truck
and get rid of all that ham radio JUNK!!!!

NO SMOKING IN THE SCHOOL. NO EXCEPTIONS.



DUES ARE \$9.00 PER SEASON. (Sept-June) MAIL TO: Greg Stoddard, N1AEH,
1500 Mapleton Ave, Suffield, CT 06078

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER PROGRAM

The club will sponsor its' first all-amateur-administered license session on Saturday, January 12th at 9 PM at the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional High School, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, Mass. Examinations for all classes of ham license will be given, from Novice to Amateur Extra.

If you're interested in taking an exam, you should obtain an FCC form 610 from the ARRL or the FCC, and submit the completed form 610, with a \$4.00 check made payable to "ARRL/VEC". Mail this to:

YORKE PHILLIPS, K1BXE
235 AMES ROAD
HAMPDEN, MA 01036

Completed applications can be accepted until the cut-off date of December 14, 1984. Make sure you attach a photostat of your current license to the form 610!

The HCRA is off and running hard with the VE program! We'll need help to make this work. The Board of Directors has decided that only club members may help with the exam testing. We've already been accused of being "snobs" for not joining with other area clubs on this. The Board feels very strongly that the highest integrity and standards must be upheld in this program. The only way we can be sure of this, and allow the good name of the club to be used, is if workers are only club members that we know and trust.

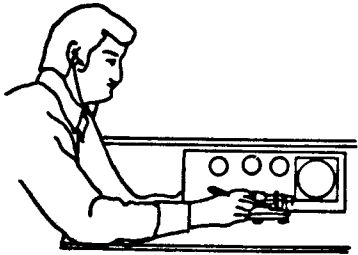
We will be happy to work out any kind of a schedule with other VE's in the area so that we don't conflict. However, we'll maintain our own program.

We do need your help! The plan right now is to host testing sessions every quarter. If we can get six or eight Extra class club VE's certified, we could host a test out in Wilbraham, and then have the next one in Agawam. (Get the Agawam piasanos in the act!) If you're an Extra class licensee, apply to the ARRL to become accredited. When you get your certification, let Yorke Phillips know you'll help. (Mark that you'll be part of the HCRA effort on the application.)

We also need people to help in auxiliary roles - Hall monitors, talk-in directions, paperwork checkers, etc, etc. If you're willing to help, contact Steve Nelson at 596-8216. Don't delay, we need to know today!

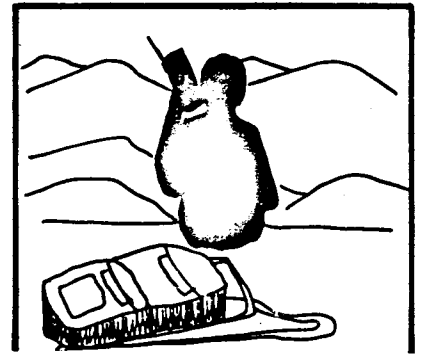
We are also soliciting your thoughts on when to have the sessions. As more and more are made available, the demand will slack off. We'd like to schedule to suit all needs, and you just have to make them known. Don't wait til the last minute, it won't be done!





RADIO LICENSING COURSES???

Will there be any licensing classes in the Greater Springfield area? Only if you step forward and volunteer. There's plenty of talkers but we need



to hear from some of the do-ers! Would you be interested in helping out? Teachers, code senders, helpers, etc etc would be needed. NOTHING will get done if you don't decide you'll be part of it. Are you willing to take charge and run this? Please call John Balboni at 786-2438 before the October meeting and tell us where you want to help!

TIDBITS

KALKPH and NLSR are willing to mount a DX-pedition to Vermont during the January contest! Contact Bob at 786-7966 to sign on... WBLEMB mentioned that he may have a place to operate from in Rhode Island. (Rare DX!)...Ads in ZERO BEAT are free for members. Anything received before the 15th of each month is sure to get in. After the 20th it's very chancy...W1NY, our club station was operated during the latest VHF Grid Contest. ..KALKPH's son shawn is now a new novice-call KALMCA! Yeah!...All of those GE Proglines the club had for sale are now gone. One group bought 9 of them, and is putting them on 6 and 10 meters FM. A benefit to the club's treasury, and a bargain at \$15.00!...The HCRA was well represented at the Boxboro convention...Is the club ten meter net going to get active again?... Would you like to operate from Eastern Mass during the January VHF contest? Let us know if you have a place we could use... When you experience obnoxious operating practices and/or wide splatter across the band from over-driven amplifiers, do not call the board of directors of the HCRA. We don't take care of that type of complaint. If you're too lazy to write and you're the one with the problem, why would you expect anyone else to do it? What you should do is write a nice letter to the offending station, calling attention to his faults. If they then continue in their ways, just don't work them during future contests. (Most people will clean up their act if asked nicely!)...John Sullivan, W1HHR, is our New England Division Director. You'll be receiving ballots from the ARRL soon. We hope you'll vote for John and return the ballot promptly...If you have a special interest or a contest you want mentioned in ZERO BEAT, you only have to write. Don't assume the editor knows everything that interests the hams. We appreciate hearing from you!...If your name is marked with blue on the mailing label, your membership has expired. Save us the cost of mailing you a notice and send it in today...Welcome to new club members-



KB1AZ, K1DFC, & W1ACTQ. Help the club by recruiting other active hams....



Fun with OSCAR-10

Byron Lindsey, W4BIW

I have been having the time of my life, since 12 August 1983, on OSCAR-10.

AMSAT has finally got it settled down with very little flutter and QSB, now that they have deployed the high-gain antennas and made other adjustments.

The first night I was on, I worked eight DX stations in a row and then decided I'd better try a U.S. station just to see if I was dreaming. I wasn't. Some nights recently, I guess I could have worked 25 or more DX stations if I had so desired. I work about half CW and half SSB. Those are the modes now being used, but there is and will be RTTY and other types. I suppose any mode is legal, but don't look for FM or AM, due to the duty cycle drain on the batteries.

I believe I did make one of the first, if not the very first, phone patch the other night. That may be common soon, as well as special interest groups such as EME, RTTY, SSTV and computer groups.

It is fun not to have to be in a hurry on this bird. Since apogee is about 35,000 miles up, as opposed to 200-300 miles for previous OSCARs, it doesn't appear to move much and one can peak up on one's own carrier and get instant field strength readings on any changes made. But don't try to monitor your CW because there is a second or so delay in coming back, due to the distance.

At first it took about 1kW ERP to get a good signal in but now you can do it with about 500 ERP. This means 50 watts and about 10dB of antenna gain. If you run too much power, you will get "hate mail" I suppose, since this is a shared power facility.

I use an ICOM 451A exciter into a Mirage 100 watt amplifier, running at 75 watts, on the uplink of 435 MHz. It goes into a 20-element Cushcraft twist antenna with right-hand polarization. Likewise, I use right-hand polarization on the downlink antenna which is just a 10-element twist. These are mounted on the chimney at 25 ft. height. I have a GaAsfet pre-amp behind the chimney mounted in a waterproof gallon bucket with two lantern batteries running it. The pre-amp has been running two months constantly and the batteries still read 5 volts each.

I think the antenna mounted pre-amp was the best thing I did. It establishes a good signal to noise ratio right on the spot.

I use one Advance U100 rotator for elevation and another for azimuth. Works FB. You do need to cover the elevation motor to keep water out and prevent freezing next winter.

Anyway, I want to recommend this bird to you. It is nothing like the others. I remember that by the time Old Man Lindsey got ready to talk on OSCAR-8, the pass would be half over.

Not so on OSCAR-10. You can take your time. In fact, if you want to make an occasional "filibuster" transmission, go ahead. This bird will still be there.

If you want some detailed orbital information and highly technical information on any of the satellites, tune in around 8:30 p.m. on 3850 kHz on Tuesday evenings for the AMSAT Net.

One other thing. You will need to use hardline to the transmitting antenna on 435 if the run is over 50 feet. Also, some low loss line from the receiving antenna. I use this new Belden 9913 for both. It is between hardline and RG/8. Has 2.5dB loss at 400 MHz and only about 1.3dB per 100 feet at 2 meters.

Your signal should be about the same strength as the beacon, which is on 145.81.

— Atlanta RC, GA

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Please
send NEWS and PICTURES to
Worldradio

FOR SALE: Cushcraft
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former, \$100.00
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supply, fully metered,
\$90.00 Alliance U100
antenna rotor, control
box, cable \$12.00
Sony 11" B&W RF-Video
monitor \$60.00 Data-
General "Dasher" printer
terminal, current loop
interface (Will include
interface for Commodore
64 computer) \$100.00
Dual meter SWR bridge in
Ten-Tec box \$30.00
Gent Lam WALCQF 783-8537

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meter Beam 1.2 SWR
across all bands \$150.
Jeff K1BE Eves-569-6739

RAAL numbered radiograms

The Rational Anonymous Amateur's League (RAAL), in its finite wisdom, has sanctioned the use of certain numbered texts for the relaying of routine messages. This procedure eliminates the unnecessary lengthy transmissions of complete texts, freeing up valuable air time to allow the discussion of such important topics as the length of your coax, the unexpected rise in your SWR from 1.1 to 1.2, or the gory details of your latest operation.

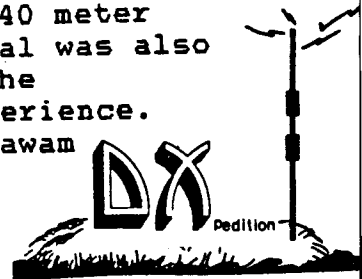
Simply send the appropriate RAAL message number in place of the text itself. The letters RAAL are inserted in the preamble before the check but after the cash. Hard cash always takes precedence. What could be easier?

RAAL # Message

- 1) We're all in danger; please worry.
- 2) We're all OK except for strange Uncle Ernie, who has six toes.
- 3) The fire department managed to save the house but they drowned the cat.
- 4) No need to worry; the radiation life of plutonium is only 5,000 years.
- 5) Suggest you remain where you are. The earthquake shook things up a bit and the place is a mess.
- 6) I have arrived safely, but my baggage is lost.
- 7) My baggage arrived safely, but I am lost.
- 8) My baggage and I arrived safely, but the plane is lost.
- 9) Please acknowledge if you did not receive this message.
- 10) In response to your questions, the answer is a mealy-mouthed maybe.
- 11) In response to your request, the seven sheep and the four gallons of peanut butter are on their way, but the walrus trusses are not to be found.
- 12) I would if I could, but I can't so I won't.
- 13) Your last message does not compute. Please check your data banks.
- 14) Okay. It sounds better than sticking my finger in an electric socket.
- 15) Please hurry home. I'm waiting for you.
- 16) Expletive deleted.
- 17) Happy Birthday to you and yours.
- 18) Sorry I forgot your birthday last month, but I was busy feeding my iguana.
- 19) Have a darn good Arbor Day.
- 20) Merry summer solstice.
- 21) Congratulations on your parole.
- 22) Best regards to your fish.
- 23) Congrats on your complexion clearing.

(from Santa Barbara Key-Klix by Ron Thompson, N6DGC)

Four Agawam HCRA members operated Field Day from the Western Mass. Law Enforcement Academy in Feeding Hills. Ken Grady KA1KBN, Bob McCormick KA1KPH, and Jack Platanitis KA1KRJ operated with HCRA President John Balboni using his AC1T call. Two stations were set up in Jack's mobile camper using Heath and Drake gear; thanks to W1KK for use of the TR5. In addition to the camper's generator Tony KA1HTJ provided an additional generator to handle the load. Dipole antennas were placed in operation for the 80 and 40 meter bands fed with twin lead feedline. A multi-band vertical was also utilized for the higher bands. The rain held off and the conditions were fairly good to make it an enjoyable experience. The guys were featured in the 05-Jul-84 issue of the Agawam Advertiser News for bonus point credit.



HB9/HB0 Trip

HCRA President John Balboni AC1T and board member Bob McCormick KA1KPH recently returned from a two week visit to Switzerland. While in Geneva they operated the ITU club station 4U1ITU. Many local hams were contacted on 20 meters, as well as quite a few countries. All QSLs for the 4U1ITU operation have been mailed; contact Bob KA1KPH if you did not receive yours yet.

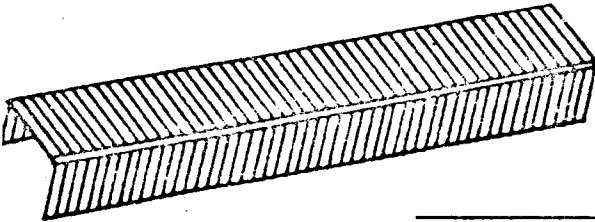
In addition to the operation of 4U1ITU, John and Bob had obtained licenses to operate in Switzerland as HB9/AC1T and HB9/KA1KPH. A pair of Kenwood TR2500s were used to contact many local hams on 2 meters mostly done from atop Switzerland's highest peaks. On an side trip to the tiny country of Liechtenstein, Bob, now operating as HB0/KA1KPH, made contact with Rolf HBOAWQ. Rolf stopped by the post office in Vaduz, the capital, for an eyeball QSO. It was interesting to learn that Rolf, one of the few people licensed to operate HF from HB0, spends most of his time on slow scan TV because of the pileups created when he operates CW or sideband.

TIDBITS FROM PAST ZERO BEATS-1957

436-450 Mhz reserved for amateur TV by gentleman's agreement...W1ALL has a new Johnson ranger on the air...W1WLE has converted a BC 348 receiver over to SSB...A dinner to celebrate the VHF SS was held with the Hartford club...W1NPL teaching a very successful novice course at Chicopee High...W1VNH worked Pennsylvania on 220...W1QWJ looking for an old BC 342 or BC 312...W1NY checked into WMN from his summer home in Wellfleet to get the latest info on Sputnik...W1FAB has his Viking 6N2 ready for the VHF SS...W1JWV getting a six meter home-brew rig ready...

TIDBITS FROM PAST ZERO BEATS-1956

W1HRV was president, W1WLE was VP, W1VNE treasurer, and W1STR (now N1PF) the secretary...W1TTL is the father of twins-a boy and a girl!...W1ARA accepted as a member...W1GYM (now N1CM) wants to trade a rifle for an SX-40...W1VNH, and W1RFU working F2 openings on six meters using Gonset Communicators....



A club member wrote asking us to please put staples in the upper left hand corner. We try to keep everyone happy!

ANTENNA TUNED FROM ABOVE.
by AC1T

You'll quickly note that this story reads as if it belongs in the April issue. However, it is true!

The month of July was certainly bad for thunderstorms. Just ask KA1APR. Fred was watching television at 1:00 am when a big thunderstorm rolled in over the Agawam area. KA-BOOM!...A direct hit on Fred's 50 foot Rohn tower. Fearing the worst, he checked all of his equipment out the following day, to find that all was OK. One thing was peculiar: The two meter FM vertical antenna, located at the top of the tower, was acting differently. The VSWR used to be 1.5 to 1. Now, it was a flat 1.1 to 1! Fred climbed the tower, and lo and behold, the lightning bolt had melted 3 inches off the top of the antenna! Such luck when all equipment in the shack was connected to the antennas on the tower and plugged into the AC line!

The tower itself was grounded by only the three foot base section and 3 screw-in guy wire anchors. It goes to show that lightning goes where it wants and does what it pleases!

Sept VHF QSO Party

The HCRA club station W1NY was again operated from the QTH of W1KK for the September ARRL VHF QSO Party event. John AC1T, Bob KA1KPH and Art W1KK operated three bands for a nice score of 29,346. The breakdown was as follows:

050 MHz	146 Contacts	30 Grid Squares	600w single yagi
144 MHz	172 Contacts	28 Grid Squares	500w single yagi
432 MHz	42 Contacts	15 Grid Squares	080w single yagi

Thanks to Ron WB1ETS for the use of the WT726; it performed flawlessly on 144 and 432 MHz and is certainly worth the money. Also thanks to Fred KA1APR for use of the APR amp; it helped greatly on 144. And of course, thanks to Art W1KK for the use of the equipment and the shack. And now for January.....

"Quick As A Wink" Printing & Sales Co.



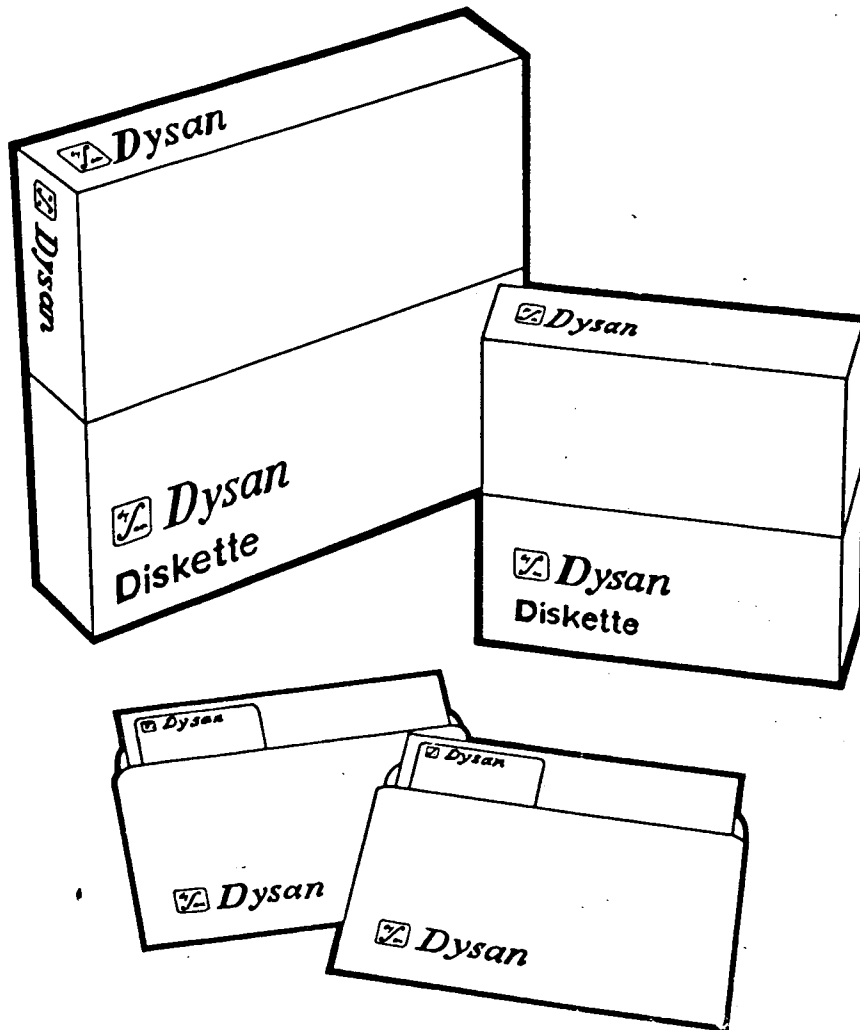
THE KOZAK'S
FRANK, LORRAINE, SCOTT, ROBBIN

573 Union Street West Springfield, Ma. 01089

TELEPHONE (413) 738-8184

Do you or the spouse have a business? How would you like to advertise it in ZERO BEAT? It does not have to deal with radio/electronics, it can be on anything! Is an anniversary or birthday coming up? Why not print a greeting in ZB? It'll be fun! COSTS: ONLY \$5.00 per issue SPECIAL OFFER- SAME AD IN EVERY ISSUE FOR 8 ISSUES- ONLY \$30.00 (pay with ad submission.) Please help us.

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Dysan
CORPORATION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: (Subject to change!)

NEXT MEETING: Friday Oct 5th

KLBUB will take us to the 1980 Winter Olympic's Special Event Station and on the 1984 Olympic Torch Run!

- Friday, November 2nd ANNUAL AUCTION!
- Friday, December 7th CLUB SLIDES FROM YEAR'S PAST.
- Friday, January 4th K1FO TELLS US HOW TO STACK ANTENNAS.
- Friday, February 1st KALKPH SHOWS US HOW TO CONNECT UP PACKET RADIO!
- Friday, March 1st AMATEUR FAST SCAN TV!
- Friday, April 12th NASA SPACE SUITS AND HOW THEY'RE DESIGNED AND BUILT!
- Sunday, May 5th FLEA MARKET AT WEST SPFLD LODGE OF ELKS.
- Friday, June 7th ANNUAL MEETING & BANQUET.

OTHER CLUB EVENTS:

- JANUARY 12th. FIRST CLUB SPONSORED EXAM SESSION!
- JANUARY 19/20 VHF SWEEPSTAKES (Tentative date)
- MARCHE/APRIL ARRL DX CONTEST
- APRIL SCIENCE FAIR AT SPFLD SCIENCE MUSEUM

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc
c/o Jeffrey J. Duquette
P.O. Box 346
Southwick, MA 01077



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ACIT E Y 10/84

FIRST CLASS

OCTOBER ZERO BEAT ISSUE

IF BLUE, DUES ARE DUE**

