

ZERO BEAT

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC

1 QSL BUREAU

SPRINGFIELD, MASS

ARRL AFFILIATED, 34th YEAR

Next Meeting Friday, September 10, 1982
8:00 PM

Jerry Hull, AK4L/VE1CER, from the ARRL will present a UHF/VHF primer concerning the many facets of the UHF/VHF bands. Some topics to be covered will be propagation, antennas, homebrewing, and pros and cons of transceiver vs transveter operation. His overview on the frequencies above 10 meters should be enlightening to all-especially to those of us who have not had the opportunity to use these bands. Having operated as dx under VE1SPI from Saint Paul off Newfoundland, he will have many interesting aspects to discuss leaving the heavy technical areas to another time.

President's Corner

As we go to press with Zero Beat on a hot, sultry August night, we reflect on the programs for the new year and wonder if any of the stimulating programs that your Board of Directors has planned for the coming year will be cancelled because of snow! It would be very disappointing to miss any of the meetings that have been planned. A few of the programs have not been confirmed as yet so a listing will not be provided until the next issue of Zero Beat.

We can say, however, that Jay Rusgrove will be one of our headliners this year, speaking about UHF and VHF construction. This will be only one of the fine meetings that will feature the bands of the future, the VHF and UHF bands. The auction will be held in November this year to accomodate those of you who can't find just the right present for your XYL at the Boxboro Convention in October.

There is also a possibility at the time this letter is written, that classes will be held to help you upgrade to a higher class license.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the September meeting on Septmeber 10th.

73's
Paul, WALZKT

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

1982-83 Officers and Directors

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Paul Kress, WA1ZKT - President	216 Eastwood Dr. Westfield, MA 01085	568-8291
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Zero Beat Editor

Gent Lam, WA1CQF	38 Porter St. Springfield, MA 01104	737-9426
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Ron Beauchemin, WB1ETS	56 Acrebrook Dr. Chicopee, MA 01020	593-9852
John Balboni, AC1T	188 Walnut St. Agawam, MA 01001	786-2438

Please feel free to contact any of the above regarding any aspect of the HCRA. The HCRA is your club...let us know how you feel.

Plante Granted Radio Operator's License

Joseph Plante of Moulton Hill Road, Monson, has been granted the General Class Amateur Radio Operators license by the Federal Communications Commission. Joe earned his first "ham" radio license in August, 1981, at age 15 and since that time has had two-way radio contact with all 50 states and 38 foreign countries using Morse code. Joe also has the distinction of winning the annual American Radio Relay League novice contest for Western Massachusetts. The General class license is granted to radio operators who demonstrate an ability to accurately copy Morse code at 13 words per minute and pass a written examination on radio theory and operation and on rules and regulations governing the operation of high power radio equipment. Joe is a member of the Hampden County Radio Association.



Editor's Ramblings

Another season is upon us and the "changing of the guard" has once again permeated the HCRA. Many thanks to all those that made the HCRA click during the past year.

I will be cranking out Zero Beat for this season and am open to any contributions, comments, or criticism relative to Zero Beat. Amateur radio has historically been a public service with its own incentives for technological growth, self policing, and camaraderie. Let us maintain this tradition via HCRA and Zero Beat. Many of you have contributed to ZB in the past and I hope that you will continue to do so. For those of you who have not, let us hear from you....share your ideas and experiences with your fellow hams. You don't need a Nobel Prize in journalism to be a part of ZB. Don't worry about typewritten copy, perfect spelling, or absolute grammatical style. Send us your thoughts to share with your fellow hams-after all.... none of us editors, past or present, are professional Perry Whites. ZB has been, is, and will be what it is because of your efforts.

Some possible ideas: your personal comments about a new piece of gear-any experiences with TVI, RFI, CATVI- a new found place to purchase those hard to find parts-experiences relative to antenna structures and local ornaments-tidbits about our members.....albeit-let's keep informed via ZB.

73, Gent

Field Day 1982

June 26 & 27, to most people, is what may be considered a nondescript summer weekend. But...to a dedicated group of HCRA members, it is an annual test of their capabilities and resources to setup and function under simulated emergency conditions.

As I was driving toward Middlefield in the beautiful Berkshires, I kept thinking about the weather forecast for sporadic thundershowers that were scheduled for the day. Upon entering the fairgrounds, my eyes took in the varieties of vehicles and temporary antennas.

Even though the starting hour for the field day exercise was rapidly approaching, the mood was that of a relaxful weekend camping trip. Hams were in various stages of setting up, checking equipment, or just carrying on with eyeball qso's.

80 through 10 meters were equipped with CW and SSB stations, set up in everything from travel trailers to picnic tables in the fairground buildings. Contest participation was carried on with a casual attitude. It was nothing to see someone operate for an hour, the shut down and go over to another station to ragchew. The contest competition gave us ample opportunity to sharpen our operating skills and people rotated from operating, to logging, to observing, to trips to the coffee pot or cooler.

Murphy, notwithstanding, did show up via arcing in antenna tuners, burned up baluns, and other problems gave us the opportunity to troubleshoot and improvise in an unfamiliar environment. But veteran hams and rookies banded together to make the weekend a success. to quote WA1ZKT... "Field day is over once you've made the first contact" served to help us rack up a respectable score while maintaining a relaxed attitude.

Please try and join the HCRA in field day next year whether to operate for 24 hours or just drop by to say hello..

73, Gent

"Quick As A Wink" Printing & Sales Co.

573 Union Street West Springfield. Ma. 01089



Letter to the editor

Walter R. Walczak
917 Homestead Ave.
Holyoke, Mass. 01040
May 9, 1982

Zero Beat
Ray Morin

Dear Ray:

Read, with great interest your article on TVRO.

I have had interest in TVRO ever since hearing about it a number of years ago. However, as you have pointed out, the cost of equipment is out of reach of most of us, nevertheless time and progress move on and it may be in the realm of possibility to purchase most equipment for a fraction of original design cost. The antenna is one thing I would like to build myself if information were available.

Looking forward to more info on TVROs.

Sincerely,
/s/ Walt W1RDC

Please note: annual membership renewal and payment of dues @ \$8.50 are payable at the September meeting.

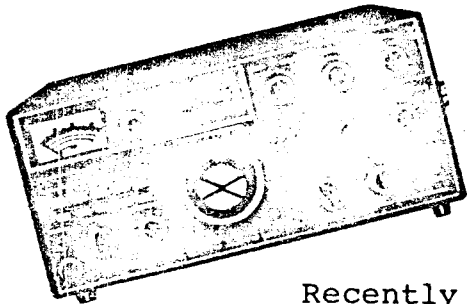
TIDBITS

KALHSP passed general, FB, Joe...WBLABF, KLIJU, listed in the ARRL 10 meter contest...WALPUX has an RS color computer on RTTY...NLFJ dragged his radio all through Canada, never put it on the air...WJJP, WBLABF sailing all summer...WBLGTR and his daughter, (also a ham, call unknown) were featured in the Springfield UNION article about single parents raising kids...WALZEY, WALECR got married. (not to each other) Congrats...WALPGT busy with the computers...WALJYB and his XYL expecting a harmonic soon...

Don't be bashful!

Write something for

ZERO BEAT!!



YOU CAN USE IT FOR....
By KlBE



Recently I acquired an Apple home computer, and now have to listen to everyone ask: "What are you going to do with it?". Besides being a great paperweight, these areas come to mind: Amateur radio and as a teaching aid.

For \$25.00, a software diskette is available to enable the Apple to send/receive cw, rtty, ASCHII, or other codes. The top half of the screen displays the incoming text, and the lower half is what you are typing in for a reply. You can use canned messages from memory or type your response, push a button, and off it goes. No fuss, no muss! Amateur TV programs are available, including color slow scan, and logging, contesting and printing QSL cards are out there, too.

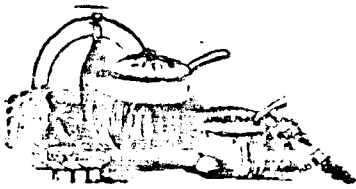
Teaching people amateur radio is where computers can really shine! Available now are morse code courses that send the morse for any character you type. i.e. hit the "B" key, and the speaker goes -... . Your sending is translated and displayed, too. Software for antenna design and circuit analysis can be bought from many sources. Math formulas and other ham related items too numerous to mention are available.

Imagine a teacher for a ham class who's always there when you want them, forever patient, and willing to cover the same material 100 times! With a computer and a video disk you get an "interactive videodisk system". Would more people stay with it and get licensed in this type of learning situation? Visualize someone like WlKK, explaining theory in a 20 hour video course. Not only could morse code be included, but you also have to participate! The "interactive" part requires you to answer questions. Screw it up and the video tape/computer goes over the material again and again 'til you get it right. It's a sophisticated teaching aid, with color, graphics, talking computers, and even computers that will understand your verbal responses.

These systems are being used to teach other subjects, like CPR. Using a "canned" system put out by the ARRL, clubs across the country could acquire computers and videodisk machines and put the program on anywhere. Students could have the teacher ready when they are. This is something that will happen, and the sooner the better for amateur radio. If you think this would just be for novices, keep in mind that anything can be taught. Can't you just see an equipment manufacturer putting out disks that show you how to repair and maintain the equipment? Seeing it done step by step, with close up photos, etc, makes even the least mechanical ham willing to dig into the rig's innards!

If you would like to learn more about interactive video disk systems, read the June, 1982 issue of "BYTE" magazine.

73,
KlBE



JUNE BANQUET REPORT

Hams gathered to partake of an excellent roast beef dinner prepared by the Feeding Hills church group. After a yummy dessert, AC1T showed slides depicting what we accomplished during the past season. N1CQ's radio show had a new dimension with an audio cassette playing an interview with W1KK. (If you think your ham station is a rat's nest of wiring...) VHF Sweepstakes slides past and present had the WALRWU gang freezing up on October mountain. K1TOL, K1APR, W1ECR and most everyone else there looked like they were having fun. W1MAO's antenna farm and W1FVS' operating positions showed a lot of hard work. W1NY operation from the CD van in '80 had W1GLZ at the operating position, using W1JP's loaned homebrew gear! (See separate article about scores, etc in this issue)

John then took us to the Field day site at Middlefield, with a tour of all the stations. (To find out what happened at FD '82, see other article) You wonder how we made any contacts when you see how shaky some of those set ups were!

The big DX contest from N1CQ's showed a club effort complete with W1CLO interviewing the op's on tape. K1BRD was banging out the contacts and didn't even want to stop for the tape. After seeing that antenna farm, we know just how much one tower can support.

Club president Ron, W1ETS turned to Dick N8BQU, to preside over the election of our new officers. (List is in this ZB) Our new president, Paul, W1ZKT, raffled off door prizes. W1GQP got the autographed-by-the-authors ARRL handbook. John Sullivan, our esteemed New England Division Director, was introduced, and presented to WALRWU, W1FVS, and AC1T certificates for their VHF SS scores. He then presented to the club a beautiful inscribed gavel for taking first place in the medium class (50 and under entries) in the SS. This award was entrusted to Frank Potts for safe keeping. Sulli spoke briefly on what's happening in amateur radio. Then the moment had arrived: The presentation of the HAM-OF-THE-YEAR. This year it is awarded to:

*****BILL SHANNON, K1BNN*****

Bill got a rousing standing ovation. Congrats, Bill!

It was a most enjoyable evening and we all went home happy and stuffed.

FOR SALE

300 watt handbook ultimate transmatch featuring rotary inductor & built in dual meter swr bridge \$30.00

Brake MN2700 2kw transmatch \$225.00

W1CQF, Gent 413 7379426

VHF SWEEPSTAKES RESULTS: JANUARY 1982

The HCRA took the number one spot in the country in the medium class, with a score of 282,094 points! This is a new club all-time record! W1LRWU set the new U.S. contest record, broke the New England Division record, and took #1 multi-op station in the country! Tom, W1LFVS the #1 single op in the club, in the Connecticut section, and in New England! Stan, W1LMAO, was in the top ten multi-ops with his score of 39,900! Chick, W1LVCU had his picture in the QST article about the contest. John, AC1T, was the top single op in Western Mass with 12,240 points!

A hearty round of applause for the following members who put us over the top:

W1LFVS	W1JP	W1UPH	K1MAL	W1YYK	K1CTM
K1WVX	N1PF	W1KK	N1SR	K1UOR	W1GVV
W1LMAO	W1WLE	W1CJK	N1CM	W1NY	AC1T
K1BE	K1NWE	W1CXC	W1YYW	W1VCU	W1ABF
W1EHS	K1Y	W1DLE	W1APD	W1NLE	W1GLZ
W1DLH	W1RED	K1JDL	W1VNE	W1MDL	K1FVT
W1VHU	K1GXU	W1EMN	K1ZQB	W1JUJ	W1UWX
W1JWV	K1IJU				

W1LRWU- K1FO, K1TOL, K1APR, K1AVJ, N1CQ, W1ECR, W1UOC, W1CAC
W1ETS- K1DNX, N1AEH

There were about six members who never sent in their logs, hope next year they will, so we can break 300,000! If you were left off the list by mistake, let us know.

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSN, INC.
GENT LAM W1CQF, EDITOR
38 PORTER ST.
SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 01104

Sept. 1982 Zero Beat



AC1T

10/82