

Z E R O B E A T

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FROM THE DESK OF W1RFU

THE GAVEL IS OURS

WE
213,940

WE WON!

THEY
165,000
Approx.

Yes, that's right, we took the Hartford club in the January 4-5 VHF Sweepstakes contest. This means that we keep the GAVEL for ever and ever. After a 5 year battle we ended up winning 3 times to their 2.

Our claimed score is 213,940 while the latest from the Hartford club indicates their score is approximately 165,000. Our score should at least hold us in 4th place in the national standing with a chance for 3rd or even 2nd place.

We had 78 members take part, which I think is an outstanding achievement for the club. 13 of the members also went portable, making a total of 91 contest scores. The Hartford club had only 37 of their members participating, although many of these went portable.

I want to congratulate every one that took part, and also the other members that could not operate but lent moral support to the team. It was surely a team success with everyone doing a grand job.

The following members will be presented with club certificates at the March meeting for having achieved the highest score in the various categories. (Chairmen excluded.)

Highest club score	W1MNG, Art Zaverella	9984 points
Highest Technician score	W1HYO, Tom Shea	4279 points
Highest Novice score	KNICZY, Allen Ramsey	2996 points
Highest portable score	W1GYM/1 Leonard Cormier	3556 points

Honorable mention goes to the following for having the next to highest score in each category.

Club score	W1HDM, Chris Payne	9360 points
Technician score	W1HMN Al White	1410 points
	W1HMN/1	598 points
Novice score	KN1DAI Carl Alsing	2856 points
Portable score	W1AJX/1 Robert Hedin	3304 points

For a complete list of scores see page 6.

JANUARY MEETING The January meeting was held at the Captain Leonard House in Agawam on Jan. 3rd, with about 90 members and visitors present. (I say about 90 because one counted heads and one counted bodies and the figures morbidly did not agree) Bill, W1RFU, gave a short talk on crystal controlled converters, and the latest scoop on the contest that started the next day. Another brother member Harvey Mensch, W1BXB, gave a most interesting talk and demonstration of the many uses of the grid dip meter.

Even some of the old timers learned a trick or two as BixBee showed how the "dipper" was used as both an oscillator and an absorption wave meter to determine the resonant frequency of a circuit, how to determine the size of those strange capacitors from your junk box, to check xtals for activity, to check xtals for frequency and much more. The door prize was an ARRL Handbook. The usual refreshments were available and consumed.

STAG PARTY The monthly stag party referred to in polite circles as the Board of Directors meeting was held Friday, January 10th at CD headquarters in Wilbraham. After the members finished swapping anecdotes of the contest, the desk was cleared for action. The final plans for the auction were discussed and our VP announced the formation of a committee to handle the actual work involved. Progress had already been made by said committee and things appeared well in hand. Visitors Bill Ham and Chris Payne, at the meeting in unofficial capacities, gave several helpful suggestions. As members of the Auction Committee they will get the chance to put those ideas into action. Which brings to mind the idea again that if you have any ideas or projects that you feel may be helpful, remember the Board meetings are held for the benefit of the club and you are welcome to bring your ideas along. (Please, not criticism...its help we want) At a suggestion from Hank, W1NY, we discussed the possibility of organizing a CW net in the novice band. The cornering of a number of xtals to make it easier for the youngsters to get active in the net was also discussed. If enough interest is shown by the general membership, similar nets may be arranged on 6 and 2 meters. On this note the meeting was adjourned, and everyone retired to Hank's home for coffee.

GREAT JOB WELL DONE The editors and publishers of Zero Beat take this opportunity, on behalf of the officers and general membership to thank Bill Rosner and his able cohorts Al Jackson and Bill Ham for the splendid job they did for the club as the VHF Sweepstakes Committee. Without their initiative and drive the winning of the gavel would never have been done. Activity of this nature, and of this scope is a sign of a healthy club atmosphere. It takes work by the members to produce and maintain this atmosphere and Bill, Al and Bill have certainly done their share and more. Again congratulations and thanks for a good job well done.

PIONEER VALLEY INDIAN Our upriver neighbor, the Pioneer Valley Amateur Radio Club now boasts a membership of over 60 members according to its monthly paper the Pioneer Valley Indian. The January issue of the Indian was received here at editorial headquarters through the courtesy of its editor, Roger Farley, W1EZD. Roger is a member of our club as well as the Holyoke club, as are many of the members. An exchange of club papers has been arranged with a view to better serving the members of both clubs by exchanging news and views of common interest.

NOTES The report of the club survey has been turned in by Ralph Robinson, W1ICW and he has done a fine job--more about that later.

Ken Walker, W1FAB, has resigned from the Board of Directors due to pressure of his work. Sorry to see him step down but he knows best. Any members willing to help by being appointed to B/D please contact Hank, W1NY at the next meeting.

COME TO THE AUCTION (with cash)

The February meeting will be held at the Captain Leonard House in Agawam on February 7th, starting at 8 o'clock sharp. The main feature of the evening will be the club's annual auction, and because an auction is a time-consuming affair the proceedings will have to get under way early. The auctioneer will be "Old Guillotine Gavel" himself, Bob Gordon, WKUL. (A word of warning...make those bids loud and early. Bob makes that "SOLD" come awful soon sometimes.) Assisting Bob will be Chris Payne, WHDM, and Bob Hedin, WIAJX. Handling the cashier duties will be Tom Barrett, WIKUE and Leo Brodeur, WLVNE. Members of the auction committee will be on duty as early as 7 PM so bring your gear early and have time to look over the rest. Tags will be available to identify your gear for the auction. The tags have 3 sections. Put your call and minimum bid (if any) on the end nearest the tie-on string. Tear off and pocket the other end section. The purchaser will get the center section and pay the cashier. You present your end and get the cash. The tie-on end stays with the gear at all times. A special table will be set aside where gear that is for sale but not for auction may be displayed. In the past many generous club members have donated gear to be auctioned off for the benefit of the club treasury. This practice is to be commended highly. If you have anything to donate, signify such on the tie-on end of the tag. Of course all sales are for cash (or check). A small service charge to raise money for the club treasury is charged. Ten percent of the price, up to a maximum of 50 cents, will be withheld by the cashier.

LICENSE PLATES Call Letter License Plates, Many of you have received a letter from the Federation of Eastern Mass. Amateur Radio Assn's advising that a bill, known as "Senate Bill 18", authorizing call letter plates has been filed in the legislature. Please write a note to both your Senator and Representative asking their support for this bill. Address it as follows:

Hon. John Doe
 Mass. Senate (or House of Representatives)
 State House
 Boston, Mass.

<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>
<u>Senators</u>			
Silvio Conte	Pittsfield	John Thompson	Chicopee 5,6
Stanley Zarod	Springfield		Ludlow
Maurice Donohue	Holyoke	George Como	Chicopee 7,8,9
Otto Burkhardt	Westfield	Joseph Wisniouski	Chicopee Wds 1,2,3,4
<u>Representatives</u>			
Philip Whitmore	Sunderland	William Sullivan	Spfld 2,8
Walter Hurlburt	Greenfield	William Kingston	Spfld
Walter Koslanski	Montague	Anthony Scibelli	Wds 3,4
Raymond Beach	Brimfield	Thomas Gray	Spfld 5
George Smith	E. Longmeadow	Philip Kimball	Spfld 6
	Hampden	Wendell Chamberlain	Spfld 7
	Longmeadow	Armand Tancredi	Spfld 1
	Holland	Stephen Chmura	Holyoke 1,2,4
	Palmer	John Cavanaugh	Holyoke 3,6
	Monson	Edwin Gorman	Holyoke 5,7
	Wales	Richard Dolan	Westfield
	Wilbraham	Jeremiah Foley	Northampton 1,2,3,4,5,

Name	District	Name	District
William Cowing	Agawam	Fletcher Smith	Easthampton
George Porter	Blanford		Hadley
	Chester		South Hadley
	Granville	Isaac Hodgen	Amherst
	Montgomery		Granby
	Russell		Ware
	Southwick		Belchertown
	Tolland		Pelham
	W. Springfield		
Charles Bisbee	Chester	Charles Bisbee	Williamsburg
	Cummington		Worthington
	Goshen		Westhampton
	Hatfield		Plainfield
	Huntington		Northampton
	Middlefield		6,7

KNOW YOUR OFFICERS To our club vice president, Tom Ferguson, W1WFL, falls the duty of lining up and presenting the program for our monthly meetings. Tom has found time to attend to this detail while also attending to the full time duty of earning his living as an industrial engineer for the US Rubber Company. Also crowding his personal daily agenda are his interests in Pioneer Valley Automation Associates, a consulting engineering firm of which Tom is vice president. Tom has two grown sons and although neither has become a ham, Tom has not given up hope on one of them. Lately Tom can be found operating on the 2 meter band pretty exclusively, but he will be on 75 meter SSB and 40 meter SSB within the month if all goes well with his construction project.

A former avid 430 mc enthusiast and now an avid "keeper of the fees" is Wes Thayer, W1LRE, our club treasurer. Licensed first in 1938, Wes hooked up with W1KZU in Agawam and nightly ragchews were held on 430 mc. Using this "party line" method the conversations went on while many pieces of gear were built and checked, including a home brew television receiver. Due to local amateur inactivity on TV (in their own bands) Wes used the set to receive channel 6 in New Haven, but with the advent of Big Screen TV, Wes returned his 5 inch one-eyed monster to the shelf. Wes's calm manner can be found daily across the counter down at Soundco Electronics helping us befuddled hams get "the" component we need. Active on 6 and 2 meters at the home station, Wes can also be heard mobile on 10 meters.

RUMORS FROM THE HARTFORD BUNCH "The old man on the mountain" Al Denson, W1BYX, is the activities manager for the Hartford club and he informs us that members of our club are welcome to visit at any of their meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Thursday of every month. Their Feb. 13th meeting is to be a "Social" and their Feb. 27th meeting is to be an auction (might be a good place to unload some of the excess you picked up at our auction). Several of the Hartford gang will be at our auction. It is expected that Mister VHF from Q Street, Ed Tilton, W1HDQ will also be there. He is the guy that used our list against us so effectively in the contest.

CLICKS AND CHIRPS #1. Ken Walker, W1FAB, just received his WAS certificate for phone. CD Sectors are holding radio drills bi-monthly. The HCRA Board of Trade has brisk interest and Tom Ferguson reports that he received service in less than 10 minutes to a request for a schematic for a 80458. (Queries to QST and CQ had produced no effective results before this) Several members admit to dozing off during the contest in their operating positions, but one Novice (not used to the late hours) fell asleep while calling CQ and his carrier remained on for the longest time (3 to 5 minutes). Ed O'Connor K1DZW wishes some member of the Ragchewers Club would show up and identify himself on 6 meters.

FOR SALE Complete 2 meter station in operating condition, consisting of a 522 xmtr. with heavy duty power supply, a W1CCH converter with regulated power supply, and an ARC 5 receiver with 110 power supply. Call Max Voigt at JE 3-1989 and make arrangements to operate it or see it operated.

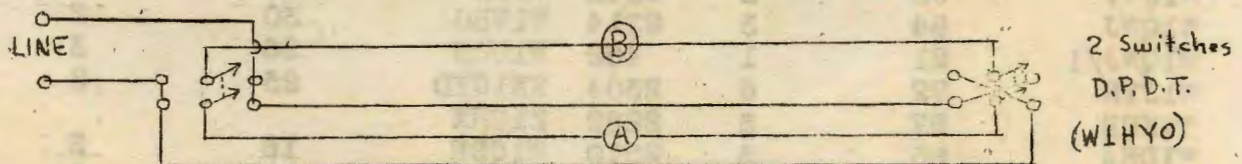
FOR SWAP Howard Cutting, W1JWV is looking for a deal on a 12 volt vibropack. He has a 6 volt one for swap material as well as some cash. Care to make a deal.

FOR THE AUCTION W1MOK informs us that he will bring to the auction a new kit wired Viking VFO with excellent calibration. Also a Radiart Vibrapack model 1455 (6 volt input) 2 Mallory Vibrapacks (6 volt).

QUIZ COLUMN #1. In his new touring sedan, operating a K^m on 2 meters SSB of course, a man drove from A to B while maintaining a speed of 20 mph. He returned from B to A at a speed of 30 mph. We all know his average speed was not 25 mph. What was it?

#2. C.W. Splatter left his QTH on foot and traveled 25 miles due South. After resting, he traveled 25 miles due West. After another rest he traveled 25 miles due North and arrived home. Where does he live?

Last Month's Problem: The response to last month's column was terrific. Nobody sent in an answer, right or wrong. So your editor was forced to figure it out all by himself. This is the solution.



CALL BOOK Mike Ludkewicz, W1DGJ, received a request from a Belgian ham for a call book. Anyone having a reasonably recent issue that they are willing to donate to this worthy cause please bring it to Mike at the next meeting.

Club Scores for VHF contest.

<u>Call</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Sect.</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Sect.</u>	<u>Score</u>
W1RFU	286	21	17608	W1ESA	79	3	2054
W1MNG	198	16	9984	W1GSE/1	84	2	2016
W1HDM	180	16	9860	KN1AB3			1992
W1KFO	159	12	6098	W1MTV	81	2	1944
W1EOB	155	12	6880	W1SRB/1	80	2	1920
W1NY	131	14	6288	W1LRE	72	3	1872
W1BxB	155	9	5890	W1IOL	75	2	1800
W1OBQ	128	10	5120	W1 PHU	68	3	1768
W1UKR	143	6	4576	W1NLE	73	2	1752
W1HYO	94	13	4278	K1BZM	70	2	1668
W1STR	112	9	4256	KN1CZZ	70	2	1656
W1RVW	118	7	4012	W1HUN	51	6	1632
W1RVW/1	10	1	220	W1GQP	58	4	1610
W1UBD	98	10	3929	W1WFL	66	2	1584
W1GYM/1	127	4	3556	W1AUF	64	2	1524
W1GYM	5	2	120	W1VNE	61	2	1452
W1KUL	127	4	3556	W1VNE/1			1296
W1AJX/1	118	4	3304	W1HMN	47	5	1410
W1AJX	16	2	372	W1HMN/1	23	3	598
W1MDL	137	2	3288	W1ICW	60	2	1416
W1FAB	79	10	3160	W1ICW/1	29	1	638
W1FAB/1	34	2	860	W1EVZ	52	3	1352
W1FWJ	111	4	3008	W1HRV	52	2	1320
KN1CZY	108	4	2996	W1IUB	55	2	1320
W1NDW	110	3	2860	W1TXI	44	4	1316
KN1DAL	102	4	2856	W1LJF	43	4	1204
W1JJO	87	6	2784	W1LJF/1	26	3	676
W1AKI	104	3	2704	W1VON	47	2	1128
W1OY	112	2	2688	W1OSK	45	2	1080
W1ALL	102	3	2652	K1AYU			1008
W1ALL/1	47	2	1128	K1BUB/1	41	2	984
W1MQK	109	2	2616	K1CYG	41	2	984
KN1BRZ	107	2	2568	W1DZW	35	4	980
W1BCI	68	9	2546	W1DUE	30	6	960
KN1DAJ	92	3	2392	W1RQY	40	2	960
KN1DAJ/1	9	1	198	W1BH	37	2	888
W1JWV	90	3	2340	W1ZER	36	2	860
W1QWJ	84	3	2314	W1VBG	30	2	720
W1QWJ/1	21	1	462	W1UCB	26	3	676
W1JYH	72	6	2304	KN1CYD	25	2	600
W1KUE	87	3	2262	K1CHX			552
W1DHA	85	3	2210	W1CSE	16	2	384
W1CJK	82	3	2132	KN1ANF	8	2	192
W1RRX	88	2	2112	KN1ANF/1	8	2	192
K1CUC	62	7	2108	W1THD	8	1	176
				W1MOK	8	1	44

