

Zero Beat

Our 40th ARRL affiliated year
Special Service Club

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Serving Greater Springfield, MA

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.

A transceiver will be set-up for all those who are interested in working the club special events station W200NY. This should be a great way to introduce a new friend to Amateur Radio, and at the same time work W200NY. Special full color QSL's will be printed for the event.

ARRL books including Tune in the World and License Manuals will also be available for purchase at the normal club discounts.

Please plan to stop by, and bring a friend!



New Novices

Jack LoMonaco WA1YYK reports the result of a recent HCRA Novice class, with the following new hams recently receiving their calls:

KA1RJA Mike Griffin

KA1RJB Ed Gingras

KA1RJC Howard Jawsnia

If you hear these guys on the air give them a warm welcome!



Service Master

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

February 1988

The Results

Its over, and some preliminary results are in. From what we have received todate, your club station W1NY placed THIRD in the country, with its highest score ever! The record breaking score was accumulated by operators: W1KK, NC1I, N1DPM, K0ZK, WA1UQC, AC1T, K1TOL, K1WHS, N1AEH. Through months of hard effort, and hours of steady manning of the station, W1NY has accomplished a major feat! Kudos to all who assisted in the setup and operation of the station. The operators would also like to thank other hams in the area who provided numerous contacts to help W1NY reach new heights.

Here is a breakdown of some of the scores we've received here at Zero Beat. Please remember that these are preliminary scores, and some adjustments may occur prior to publication in QST. The numbers are: the band, QSO's, and grids worked.

1st place aprox 500,000

N2SB (+WC2K, ops)

Mt. Airy (PacRats) FM29

6m	300	48
2m	675	60
220	184	31
432	246	32
903	28	10
1296	70	17
2304	22	3
3456	1	1
10GHz	3	2
24GHz	1	1
Totals:	1510	205

2nd place aprox 250,000

WA2OMY (+AA2Z) in FN20

6m	218	34
2m	494	44
220	144	21
432	161	24
903	21	6
1296	50	12
2304	19	3
Totals:	1107	144

3rd place aprox 207,418

W1NY (op above) in FN32

6m	245	35
2m	487	34
220	124	22
432	189	36
1296	38	11
Totals	1083	138

W2SZ score 143,000

(WA2AAU +ops) in FN22

6m	225	39
2m	415	42
220	110	22
432	96	26
1296	5	2
Totals	851	131

K1TR score 117,000

(+ops) from FN42

6m	170	23
2m	425	26
220	107	17
432	128	21
903	13	7
1296	17	4
Totals	860	98

Continued



Remember W200NY!

KA1ZE score 105,000 FN31
(+N1FJV, AC1T, NA1W, NM1K, KA1QAS, K1CPJ)

6m	80	16
2m	430	35
220	65	17
432	120	25
903	12	6
1296	18	7
Totals	725	106

N1FJV score 91,000 FN31
(+KA1ZE, AC1T, NA1W, NM1K, KA1QAS, K1CPJ)

6m	75	15
2m	460	32
220	65	16
432	100	22
903	10	5
1296	12	6
Totals	722	96

N1DPM score 25,000
(single op NC1B) in FN32

6m	48	12
2m	174	23
220	57	11
432	42	5
1296	6	5
Totals	327	56

As you may see by the above scores, if W1NY had been operational on 903 and 2304 we would have had a good chance of taking second place! If you compare the WA2OMY scores of the bands W1NY operated on we surpassed their score by a few thousand points. Can you guess what improvements will be occurring for next January?

Don't forget that this is the VHF contest where your help means a lot! All club members are asked to submit a log to the ARRL if at all possible. Last year we made it into

the unlimited category for the first time ever. Can we get the minimum of fifty logs again this year? With your help we can meet that goal.

What will our total club score be? Well, it appears by the scores listed above that although conditions were not great, activity was. Just because you see larger numbers above it doesn't mean we don't need your score. We need every point, even if you only got 100 points total! Please, please fill out a summary sheet, and send your logs into the League today.

Elsewhere in this issue of Zero Beat are some instructions to assist you in the filling out of your summary sheets. If you should have any problem at all just drop your logs and a SIGNED summary sheet in the mail ASAP to KA1KPH, P O Box 17, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0017.

And watch for the results in an upcoming issue of QST! To all who participated, thanks!



VE Exam Results

A special VE session was recently held for five candidates, with all passing at least one exam element. Debbie Dunlap KA1NCW upgraded to Technician, Joe Dunlap KA1PAZ also upgraded to Technician, Bill Pichette KA1QWR upgraded to General as did Pauline Dunlap N1EVE, and Jeff Dunlap passed the General Element 3B written exam. Congrats to all on their accomplishments!

VE's assisting in this session were Jeanette KA1MEW, Jack KA1KRJ, John AC1T, Ned NB1R, and Bob KA1KPH.



The HCRA 10m net meets Thursdays 9 PM on 28.650 MHz

Buy - Sell - Swap

Wanted:

A late serial Drake C-Line. Contact Fred, N1DPM, at 413.786.7943

For Sale:

Yaesu FT107M. Contact Howie, KA1NVN, at 413.592.2367

Wanted:

Auto call plates; one per year for each state. Please contact Dave Heller, K3TX, 250 Alden Ave, Yardley, PA 19067

Trade:

Will trade ElectroVoice dynamic microphone desk model 622 Lo-Z 150 ohm for equal quality Hi-Z mic or sell. Contact Fred LaValley, K1FUA, 413.562.3080

Wanted:

Kenwood MC50 microphone and AT230 antenna tuner. Contact Howie, KA1NVN, at 413.592.2367

Wanted:

People to check into the HCRA 10m net Thursdays at 9 PM on 28.650



Nets

Hampden County Radio Association 10m net meets every Thursday evening at 9:00 PM on 28.650 MHz. Long time net control is Bill KA1ERS. The gathering place for exchange of club and general information.

Western Mass Slow Speed (traffic) net meets Monday-Friday at 7:30 PM on 3.562

Many ARES nets meet on Sunday morning. Some are: On 3.937 MHz at 8:30 AM, on K1FFK/R 146.91 MHz and KA1KPH/R 449.175 MHz at 9:00 AM, on K1FFK/R 53.23 MHz at 9:15 AM.

YCCC Swap Net meets at 8:00 PM Thursdays on 28.303 MHz

Western Mass Traffic Net (cycle 2) meets at 1:00 PM Monday thru Friday on K1FFK 2m repeater 146.91 MHz

Western Mass Phone Net (SSB) meets Monday thru Saturday at 6:00 PM on 3.937

Western Mass (CW) net meets evenings at 7:00 PM on 3.562 MHz

Ten Meter Rag Chew Net (SSB) meets Sunday nights at 7:00 PM local on 28.400 with NM1K the net control station.

License Manuals

Quite often the HCRA receives questions regarding the status of ARRL License Manuals, which are available through the HCRA. The October 1987 issue of QST contained an article by Bruce Hale, KB1MW, ARRL Assistant Technical Editor. The following information was extracted from that article for your convenience. You can refer to QST or request a copy of the reprint by sending an SASE to the ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

The following table indicates the current license manuals:

pools would be revised on a three-year cycle. The Extra pool would be revised in 1987, followed by the Novice and Tech pools in 1988, and the General and Advanced pools in 1989. After the revision is complete and a pool is released, publishers have nine months to revise their study materials before the new pool is actually used for tests.

Hence the present license manuals will be correct until the question pools are revised and the VECs begin to use the new pools on exams. This means that the editions shown in the above table will be current until about six months after the new pool

revision in 1989. New editions of these manuals should be out sometime in August or September 1990.

The HCRA has all the current editions of the ARRL license manuals, which are available at all club meetings, or by writing to the club address.

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W200AW Report

It was a great honor for me on 10-Jan-1988 to operate from League HQ as W200AW. The response on ten meter ragchew net was fantastic. Now I know what its like to be on the other end of a pile up. I want to thank Joe, NA1X, for taking a list so that everyone who wanted could be

<u>Element</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Current License Manual*</u>
2	Novice	Tune in the World with Ham Radio, Seventh Edition
3A	Technician	Tech/General License Manual, Third Edition Second Printing
3B	General	Tech/General License Manual, Third Edition Second Printing
4A	Advanced	Advanced Class License Manual, Second Edition Second Printing
4B	Extra	Extra Class License Manual, Second Edition Second Printing

* Minor updates, undertaken when the supply of manuals begins to run out, are called new printings of the existing editions. Generally, a new printing of an existing edition does not make the older printings of that same edition obsolete.

Its most important that you use the current edition, than that you have the most current printing. New printings usually contain very minor corrections of typographical errors, while new editions reflect changes in the question pools.

Until 1987, the FCC was responsible for updating each question pool once a year. Of course, this required that the study materials also be updated on a yearly basis. Now, Volunteer-Examiner Coordinators are responsible for updating the question pools. The VECs decided at the VEC conference in July 1987 that the

for that license class is released to publishers.

A new edition of the Extra Class manual should be out in August or September of 1988. A new edition of Tune in the World may be out in August or September of 1989.

The Tech/General manual will be divided into two separate manuals (one manual for Tech and a separate manual for General) also in August or September of 1989. Until then, the ARRL will continue to publish one manual containing both Element 3A and Element 3B pools.

Element 3B General, and Element 4A Advanced, are scheduled for

worked. Also want to thank the people for standing by while I used the repeaters listed. Anyone wishing a QSL should send their QSL and a SASE to W200AW, care of the ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. What follows are my totals for the 3.5 hour operation.

73, [s] Rusty Hack NM1K

<u>Operation</u>	<u>QSO's</u>
10m ragchew net	55
75m phone	61
80m CW	102
40m CW	41
2m sideband	60
2m FM simplex	15
2m FM 146.91/R	65
2m FM 146.79/R	41
2m FM 147.00/R	33
2m FM 146.94/R	2
Totals:	474

Fill It Out!

Now that the 1988 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes is over, you can sit back and relax - almost! If you have not completed your VHF Sweepstakes summary form, please do so now, and send it in directly to the League! The following steps should walk you easily through the process of filling out this form. It may look a bit complicated, but just follow these simple directions.

- 1 Fill in the boxes at the top of the form. Indicate the call you used during the contest; the grid square you gave out, and the ARRL section you operated from. Most of you will use FN32 and WMA if you operated from western Massachusetts, while some of you will use FN31 and CT if you are south of the border.
- 2 Check one box under Station Categories. If you were a single operator station, and worked only one band, check the first box. Don't forget to indicate which band you operated! If you were a single operator station, and worked more than one band, then check the second box. Finally, if you were fortunate enough to have additional help, check the multiple operator station box, and list the calls of the other operators to the right.
- 3 Go through your logs, making sure you have no dupes. If you worked more than 200 people on a band you must submit a dupe sheet (list of calls worked) with your entry.
- 4 Count the number of contacts for each band, and write the count in the box in the QSO's column.
- 5 Count the number of grid squares you worked on each band. You may find it helpful to use the grid

square map in last month's newsletter to do this.

- 6 For each band you worked, write the count of different grid squares for each band in the Grid2 column.
- 7 Get a calculator.
- 8 Each QSO is worth a certain number of points, the higher the frequency the more points you get. For example 2m QSO's are worth one point (X 1) while 70cm QSO's are worth two points each (X 2). For each band you worked, multiply the number of QSO's by the amount indicated to the right, and enter the result into the QSO [points] box.
- 9 Now for each band, multiply the QSO [points] value (just computed) by the number of grid squares, and enter the result in the Score box.
- 10 Total the left hand three columns: QSO's, QSO [points], and Grid2. DO NOT total the score column; its computed in the next step.
- 11 Compute your total score. Multiply the Total QSO [points] by the Total Grid2, and write the result in the SCORE box. Remember, your total score is NOT the total of all the individual band scores, but the total number of QSO points multiplied by the total number of grid squares.
- 12 You're almost done! Date the form, sign it, and indicate your call.
- 13 Make sure you indicate your mailing address; the League may send you an award!
- 14 If possible, make copies of you logs, summary sheet, and dupe sheets (if any).

15 Mail your logs, summary sheet, and dupe sheets (if any) to the ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111

16 Now sit back and relax!

HCRA VE Exam Schedule

The HCRA has enhanced its volunteer exam offerings with the inclusion of regular monthly exams on the west side of the river. In addition to the Saturday morning exams scheduled in Wilbraham, Wednesday evening exams will now be held in Agawam.

03-Feb-88	7:00 PM	West
02-Mar-88	7:00 PM	West
12-Mar-88	8:30 AM	East
06-Apr-88	7:00 PM	West
04-May-88	7:00 PM	West
01-Jun-88	7:00 PM	West
11-Jun-88	8:30 AM	East
10-Sep-88	8:30 AM	East
10-Dec-88	8:30 AM	East

West Exams:

Agawam High School
Route 57
Agawam MA 01001

Jeanette Platanitis
KA1MEW
101 Highland St
Feeding Hills MA 01030
413.786.1463

East Exams:

Minnechaug Regional H.S.
Main Street
Wilbraham MA 01095

Yorke Phillips
K1BXE
235 Ames Rd
Hampden MA 01036
413.566.3010

First Annual HCRA AF Sweepstakes

Results of the 1st Annual HCRA AF Sweepstakes

The first annual HCRA AF Sweepstakes was held at the January 1988 club meeting. This event was a audio frequency contest to stimulate interest in the operation of the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. Prizes were awarded to the top ten scores.

The objective was to work as many people as possible in a thirty minute period. The exchange was your initials and month of birth. To make things interesting, you could work everyone twice: one location was called room A where the contacts were worth one point (a large room), and the other location was called room B where the contacts were worth two points (a very small room - the coat closet).

After the completion of the 30 minute contest period contestants had to fill out the HCRA AF Sweepstakes Summary Sheet, and hand it into the awards committee. The committee verified all scores, and checked logs for dupes, etc. The awards committee consisted of N1DPM, KA1ZE, and KA1KPH. The scores for the 29 people handing in their logs are listed to the right.

QRZ?

A total of 77 people turned out for the meeting, which was postponed from its original date due to bad weather. The meeting was rescheduled to the day before the contest and all members should have been notified by mail of the new date and time.

A very good presentation on VHF Sweepstakes contesting was delivered to the group by Stan KA1ZE and Fred N1DPM. The HCRA AF Sweepstakes followed the presentation, giving those in February 1988

Call	QSO	Points	Mult	Score	Name
NC1B	68	107	24	2,568	Shawn
KA1OOH	68	101	24	2,424	Chris
KA1MEW	65	98	23	2,254	Jeanette
WA1EYF	63	98	23	2,254	Steve
AC1T	60	91	24	2,184	John
N1EVE	57	88	24	2,112	Pauline
KA1KRJ	61	91	23	2,093	Jack
KA1KPH	62	90	23	2,070	Bob
K1BXE	65	98	21	2,058	Yorke
W1UWX	59	86	23	1,978	Cliff
WA1PGT	55	82	23	1,886	Jerry
KA1ONV	54	81	23	1,863	Janet
N1FJV	55	88	21	1,848	Kevin
K1BE	57	84	22	1,848	Jeff
KA1RJA	53	76	23	1,748	Mike
WA1PLS	51	76	23	1,748	Ed
KA9LXP	46	71	22	1,562	Mark
KA1ONX	62	75	20	1,500	Bill
N1EHZ	59	69	21	1,449	Dick
K1WVX	44	66	21	1,386	Paul
N1EIZ	41	62	22	1,364	Don
N1FGZ	47	67	20	1,340	Bob
KB1MU	45	68	19	1,292	Dave
KA1RJC	37	58	19	1,102	Howard
KC1CA	38	54	18	972	Ken
KA1CDS	37	52	18	936	Peter
W1TXS	34	49	19	931	Richard
WB1BZH	32	51	18	918	Ken
NJ1E	32	42	20	840	Bill

attendance a chance to try out what they had learned. The awards ranged from an electric pencil sharpener and calculators to customized ARRL US maps with beam headings provided by N1DPM (we hope he signed each one of them!)

In addition to the 29 people who submit their logs for awards, there were many people who also gave out points. Thanks to all who participated. Who knows, maybe we'll do it again next year!

Thanks for the new multiplier...

ZERO BEAT is the newsletter of the Hampden County Radio Association, Inc., and is published monthly from September thru June. Contents of *ZERO BEAT* may be reprinted provided *ZERO BEAT* and the author are duly credited. Please note that some articles appearing in *ZERO BEAT* may be copyrighted; consult the author for reprint permission. Your *ZERO BEAT* editor is Bob KA1KPH. All members are welcome to place free Wanted or For Sale adds in *ZERO BEAT*.

The HCRA would like to thank the following contributing editors and sources, who have brought you this month's issue: KA1KPH, N1DPM, K1BXE, W1KK, WC2K, KA1MEW, WA1YYK

W200NY HCRA Special Events Station

QSL with SASE to:

KA1KPH
P O Box 17
Feeding Hills MA
01030-0017

1988 Dates to Remember

Feb	5-12	W200NY on the air!
	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

New World of Ham Radio
February 5th, 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>
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	<i>none</i>	

February Meeting

All about Novices; how to get started in Amateur Radio. Bring a friend that you think would be interested in getting a Ham Radio license.

See the video that was downloaded from a satellite: The New World of Amateur Radio
Talk to Hams who have just got their Novice license, as well as others who have upgraded to Technician, General, Advanced or Amateur Extra. License manuals, too!

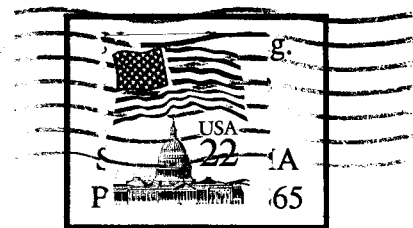
See an operating station to contact the HCRA special events station W200NY

Literature describing Amateur Radio will also be available. Hope to see you there.

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.
P O Box 482
West Springfield MA 01090-0482

Forwarding & Address
Correction Requested

February 1988



10/88 AC1T

