

ZERO BEAT

A Monthly Publication
of the
Hampden County Radio Club
Springfield, Mass.

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No. 1

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Vice President Richard Stevens WIQWJ

Secretary Clarence Bordeau WLIJT
Treasurer Robert Adolphson WINLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next gathering of the Hampden County gang will be at 7:30 P.M. Friday, January 7, 1948 at the Hampden County Improvement League Building, Eastern States Exposition Grounds, Memorial Avenue, West Springfield. As there are to be three other groups in the building that night we will be in the small auditorium (heated, though) and to avoid disturbing the others may not have the usual freedom of the halls. We again will draw on the local talent and Wes Thayer, WLLRE will give us a talk on receivers, their whys and wherefores.**As most of you know, Wes is one of the town's top-notch men on receivers and sound systems and works on both at the Riga Electric Company. At this meeting we have three applications which were unanimously approved by the Executive Committee and will be up for consideration by the club members. Walter Ross, W1QUQC, one of the Springfield ten meter gang for the past year, Glen Gurnsey, W1RRW, a new arrival and also on ten from West Springfield, and SWL Leo Jarvis who will be remembered as the lad who drew his own number for the door prize in November. **See vry important note last paragraph!!!

IN THE HUB-BUB of the last two meetings, the announcement was not heard by all, so for your general information, the H. C. Radio Club is now officially affiliated with A.R.R.L. and has the certificate safely in the hands of the Secretary for any who would like to see it.

WE'RE MIGHTY SORRY about the temperature at the last meeting but we were really overwhelmed by the wonderful turnout from Worcester and Pittsfield. Between the space needed for the gang and the demonstration equipment, we unexpectedly had to move out to the unheated auditorium. Many, many orchids to Ike Creaser, W1UD for saving the evening with hot coffee instead of the cold cider that we had originally planned to have. The Secretary reports an attendance of over 75.

THE DOOR PRIZE as usual, commanded a good share of attention and it was truly a "Visitors Night" as the Xtal grinding kit given by Lou Richmond, W1AVK of Springfield Radio Company was drawn for Tom Shedd, W1RDD who came down with fellow members of the Worcester County Club. One of our old friends who may have seemed to have "Gone Commercial" on us is W1AWW, Frank Cushing. He assured us though, that he's still a ham at heart and while operating mostly on 20CW will shortly be on 6 and 2 meter fone. As the proprietor of T. F. Cushing's radio equipment store at 349 Worthington Street, he is the donor of our door prize for this January meeting. It's a mighty useful tool and gadget and let's hope YOU are the one to win it.

WE HOPE that none of last month's guests will feel that a formal invitation is necessary to come again, 'cause we are all looking forward to having you drop in again at any time.

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THE VHF GANG came through this month with news enough to indicate that activity is really picking up on the higher bands. We hear that WLNH is vertically polarized (not by choice) with a four element array on 2 meters - 40 feet above the roof! It seems that a rope broke and the beam cannot be pulled horizontal again until WLIUB can get up on the roof in his stocking feet once more; ask Forrest about that one! The old regulars were pleasantly surprised during the last few weeks to hear several new signals on the two meter band. WLRU is tripling into the band with his 829B and ten meter beam. Bill is also on 6 meters and reports an opening to South Carolina on December 12. The Horse Traders are on six with Browny, WLLLL in the drivers seat and WIAEP representing the local gang. Also the Boston boys can be heard - and worked - on the ground wave. WJUS has been poking out a nice signal on the low end of two meters and WLNH, WLJEJ, WICCH, WIQXV and WLJWV have all been active recently. The die-hards are still looking for more 420 mc activity. WICCH says ignition QRM comes in nicely but as yet he has heard no signals on the band. See more in final final.

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AS WE PROMISED last month, here is a tabulation of as many of the Western Mass. sweepstakes scores as we could round up - those marked with an asterisk are Hampden County boys:

CALL	STNS.	SECTS.	SCORE
*WLJYH	717	67	120,097
*WLEOB	616	70	107,800
WIKJO	495	66	81,262
WIAUN	326	63	41,076
WLJE	183	53	24,181
WIBKG	185	49	18,130
WIKKI	210	35	15,700
WIBEF	193	34	13,022
*WIAPA	110	37	10,175
*WIRHU	117	31	8,990
*WLBVR	42	27	2,268
*WIKFV	40	28	2,240
WIRCS	38	19	1,825
#*W1QWJ	23	18	828
*W1LJT	21	16	672

#*W1QWJ was our only phone entry - tsk! tsk!

The total club score submitted to ARRL was 253,070 points which is pretty sad considering the number of members we have - oh well, maybe next year-----?

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SPEAKING OF CONTESTS, don't forget the ARRL member party in January. In some ways this is more fun than the sweepstakes; it moves faster and there isn't anywhere near the amount of bookkeeping involved.

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LAST MONTH'S LENGTHY TOME was prepared, published and printed by 1QXV, 1NLE & 1LJT. Thanks a lot, fellers, but as you said, "Don't expect five pages again!) It's a pretty safe bet that every one who gets this paper reads it all the way through. Some of you may even enjoy reading it. It's an even safer bet that you won't read it at all and that NO ONE will enjoy it if we don't get some news from the individual club members! Just to give you an idea, here is how the issues, so far, have been prepared. Two of us get together some evening with a few pencilled notes, typewriter, cigarettes, coffee and other editorial essentials. We knock off the Announcements, what happened at the last meeting, who gave or is going to give the door prize and any dope from the Secretary. That's easy - but now what? Well, only one of us could make the last meeting and he was tied up and didn't get to talk to many of the fellows; oh yes, "I saw Joe on the street the other day and you know that girl he was going with? ----- well we can't print that anyway". And so it goes until about midnight and we wind it up with the same old stuff about the same guys that we see between meetings. Now neither of us can spend the time during

the month calling people up to find out what is going on. Neither of us can get around at the meetings and get enough dope there. In short, we aren't professional reporters or newspaper editors, so if you can write and if you know the location of the nearest mailbox, take one (1) penny from the thousands that you earn every month and five (5) minutes from the 43,200 in every month, and drop us a postcard. And so endeth the sermon for today.

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INCIDENTALLY, we were out to see W1QWJ the other day and that transmitter-exciter that he is offering for sale is really a nice job. It's every bit as good in looks, construction and operation as any commercial rig so if you need a rig of that sort it might pay to give Dick a call. LJYH would still like to make a deal with someone for a ten meter converter and we understand that 1KFV has an ear open to offers for his HRO, Signal Shifter and 35T's. No, Bob isn't going off the air - he has his eye on a Collins and wants to raise enough cash to make a down payment.

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BOTH QST AND CQ MAGAZINES came out with a flock of good articles during the past year and everyone probably remembers best those which were of particular interest as far as his own phases of the hobby are concerned. However, there were three or four which stuck in our minds as being of special value to all of us - here they are in case you missed them. For the CW men, the slickest gadget of the year was the "Monitone" as described on page 22 of September QST. Phone men are already well acquainted with the Q5-er and By Goodman's article in January QST seems to hit the nail on the head. "Radio Clubs: Making 'em Work" on page 32 of October CQ was excellent; you would almost think the author was talking about our own Club. And last but by no means least was Larry LeKashman's editorial tribute to K. B. Warner in November CQ. This is not only a eulogy, remarkable for its sincerity and for its freedom from sentimental platitudes, but a distinct challenge to every amateur who is interested in the ARRL and its future. Read 'em over some of these cold winter nights and see if you don't agree.

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THE CIVIL AIR PATROL invites any Holyoke or Springfield Hams who can spare one hour each week to teach a class in radio theory, to join up and enjoy the many advantages offered by the organization as well the experience of teaching interested youngsters about radio. See Leo Jarvis for the details. Leo is up for membership this month and operates WVHZ on 148.14 mc.

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EIGHTY METER DX has had a couple of shots in the arm lately. In addition to the many Europeans that have been coming through in the early evening ZC8PM has been providing an Asian contact for many 3.5 mc WAC hunters. Look for him on Saturday nights on 3507 kc about 2200 EST. That's not a separate country from ZC6 yet, but we understand from ARRL that it will be when the border is officially established. J2AAL told W1QWJ during a ten meter fone QSO that he (J2AAL) would be on 3512 kc. every morning at 6, 7, and 8 A.M. EST and will be looking for the East Coast! Twenty meters has been rather dull during December but W0MCT popped up after Xmas with a C3 after his call. He says he expects to be there for a long time. C3 incidentally is the new prefix for Formosa, so don't pass him up thinking he is just another W portable in China.

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WHAT'S THIS WE hear about RHU starting up a "teen-age-net" on forty CW?

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WESTERN MASS. ten meter fone net has slowed down lately after getting off to an A-1 start. This is essentially an EC and traffic net, meeting at 9 P.M. Thursdays at 29250 kc. With many of the Club members interested in ten meters this net should be a strong one. Make it a point fellows to "check in" at 9 next Thursday whether you intend to stay or not. Incidentally this is one spot to get the latest news after the net closes down and the rag-chewing starts.

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MAYBE you don't read the Hampshire Gazette, but Springfield newspapers sometimes reprint important news originating in that Northampton Daily. At any rate W1QFB was in the lime-light recently for his successful D4 contact scheduled to bring an

airforce officer in touch with his grateful wife who was newly established in Northampton.

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WE LOOK FORWARD to hearing UD's mobile 10 meter signal with his new TBS 50A. He will be joined shortly by NY also mobile. Seems to us that LRE was mobile once. Perhaps he'll get his rig dusted off too. W1RRX is also getting ready.

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IT'S ONLY GOING to take three club members entering the VHF Sweepstakes to get a Club score. Remember this contest starts January 15th at 2 P.M. and is for frequencies in the six meter band and higher. Give it a whirl and get in on the fun! Send your totals to W1JYH for compiling and forwarding to the League.

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IT'S A PLEASURE to announce that the two Ludlow "Teds", W1RLV and W1OUJ were accepted by the membership and duly elected full members. We hope to see you both entering into club activities shortly.

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JUST TOO LATE for last month's issue came the news that Al Jackson, W1OBQ, had become the proud poppa of a baby girl. She was Al's first and we hear that Al is trying to sked the West Coast already for quick communication with Hollywood when the film offers begin to come through.

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TO ALL THE GANG from this month's contributors - W1IJT, W1NLE, W1RFU, W1QXV, W1JYH - a very Harry New Year and vy 73.

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FLASH !!

Final Final:

After we had the type all set, we took our own advice, called into the Thursday nite 10 meter net and picked up some important corrections and additions in the rag-chewing which followed. Incidentally, the net perked up with eleven showing up.

WesThayer will not be able to favor us January 7th as the main event of the evening. Sorry to miss him but we are taking a rain check on him. Other arrangements are in the works and will be announced over the 10 meter net January 6th, so be sure to listen.

Our well known associate member, Rollin (Pete) Pederson is moving on to full membership and has his exam behind him. Good luck, Pete!

W1RRV (Frank) W1MAS's engineer up on the mountain is now listening in each Tuesday and Wednesday evening on 420 mc and has heard KZU and LRE. This band really ought to open up now.

73 Again.