

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** It looks like we're in for a variety of meeting places. Our next will be at the Chalet in West Springfield, February 3, 1950 at the usual time of 7:30 P.M. The place is pretty well known, but if you don't recall, it's on Riverdale Road, about opposite the Springfield Country Club entrance. The speaker for the evening will be Mr. H. Wernick, radio engineer for the F. W. Sickles Co., who will discuss "Windings for Radio Frequency Inductances."

Remember the date. March 31, 1950, for on that Friday evening, the FCC examiners will be here. So bone up, you SWLs and Class B boys, here's your chance. The time and place should be in the next issue of Zero Beat. See later page of this literary masterpiece for registration blank. Pittsfield, Worcester and Fitchburg Clubs please note: You are invited to send anyone who wants to take A or B Amateur exams, but please let Ken Gurney WLSIT know how many are coming and what class exam by March 17th, that everyone may be taken care of. We expect to have a notary on hand, but if your applications were in order on arrival, it would be a help.

**LAST MEETING** Our January meeting topic was delivered by an engineer from the Sprague Company's lab and concerned filters in general. Ev Taylor stole the show later with his story of a Navy glut-glub-glug maker - - so help me. I've heard so many versions of it since Ev delivered it, that I don't know what he said now. By the way, Ev, did you know that the infernal thing has grown to a size requiring two cranes (40 ton of course) to hoist it over the rail?

Our Veep MNG won the 815 and socket donated by Springfield Sound -

What happened, Vic?

Harvey Brunelle, GUY, and Robert Pease, OLS, were duly and unanimously elected club members. Greetings to you both, fellers.

**NOTICE** At the executive committee meeting at QWL's, five applications for membership were accepted for approval by vote at the February 3rd club meeting. The applicants were Richard Napolitan, SWL; Edwin Foster, SWL; Henry Jette, EGN; Fred Brigham, ETY; and Austin Johnson, Jr., SFU.

Al Purseglove sorrowfully tendered his resignation as member of the Executive Committee due to pressure of other demands on his time, and the Committee just as regretfully accepted.

Because everyone's dues run for a different period, the paper work has grown out of all reason. It is therefore proposed that the By-Laws be amended to provide for a fiscal year ending each October 31st. This will be voted on at the February 3rd meeting. The Amendment reads as follows:

AMEND Section 1 of Article IV of the By Laws by deleting the first sentence thereof, and substituting therefor the following: All applications for membership shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee and shall be accompanied by dues covering the balance of the current fiscal year at the rate of 25¢ for each remaining month or any portion thereof.

AMEND Section 1 of Article V of the By Laws by deleting the first sentence thereof and substituting therefor, the following: Dues shall be \$3.00 annually per member for the fiscal year starting each November first and ending October 31st, and shall be payable to the Treasurer in advance, in accordance with Article IV of the Constitution.

Lou Richmond, thru his local emporium, The Springfield Radio Co, (and various subsidiaries and branches) is furnishing the door prize for February.

**ARRL ACTIVITIES** WHAT HAPPENED ? As far as I know, there was only one entry from HCRC in the recent 10 meter contest. Not a very good showing considering the number of ten meter operators we have in our gang. Congratulations are in order for IJT who attained a score of 1403 on 61 contacts in 23 states.

\*The Committee, in filling the vacancy is fortunate to have Glen Gurnsey, LRRW, take over. Glen's pretty faithful to ten meter phone, and he's another Wico man.

\*Rog Corey, LJYH, as new prexy is taking his feet off the Editor's Desk, and Bill Ham, LRRX, will assume responsibility, at least temporarily, for Zero-Beat, so send your contributions henceforth to Bill.

\*Some clubs have Vice-presidents because the club they copied their constitution from had one. We've got a real Veep on the job, who is taking over for a couple of months while Roger is so cheerfully donating his time evenings to the N.E.Tel Co. Art Zavarella, LMNG, is also relieving Bill, LRRX, from his job of chairman of the program committee while Bill edits this blurb (I think Art's getting the worst of it).

\*Something new has been added: The Committee appointed a Club Historian in the person of Russ Hobbie, LRHU, assisted by Carl Dewey, LRZG. They are to have charge of the pictorial records of the club; collect and suitably preserve the published articles about the club, and write up the special doings such as the annual banquet, field day, outing, etc.

\*The committee batted around the idea of making equipment available for TVI reduction. The thought was that once the TVI committee had (can it be possible) determined the particular complaint might be of ham origin, the technical committee would get into the act. To do so intelligently, a few of the basic tools, f'rinstance a grid-dip meter and field strength meter, should be available together with made-up samples of standard remedies, f'rinstance again, an A.C. line filter, low and hi band-pass filters, traps etc. When these checks and trials point to a probable remedy, the ham concerned would be expected to supply and install his own. Give the committee your reaction to this suggestion.

Having been unanimously passed by the Committee, the club members will vote this coming meeting on applications of WLGYY, Harvey R. Brunelle of 24 Decker Place, and WLOLS, Robert E. Pease of 11 Balfour Drive, both of Springfield.

CONTESTS The 16th ARRL Sweepstakes has come and gone. The XYL again recognizes by WLEOB me as a member of the family. The contest was off to a poor start in this section of the country due to very poor conditions. The second weekend was a delightful improvement. In spite of it all, the club managed to roll up a total score of 473,105.75. In my opinion, this should place HCRC as one of the first ten clubs in the country. This is based on the great increase in activity over last year's performance. Last year's total score was 251,571 compiled by six CW addicts. This year the phone gang were in there hollerin' for all they could get. Eleven CW and eleven phone scores were received. Leading the CW participants, was Rog Corey, WLJYH, the old master with a total of 117,150. Among the phone gang, where the competition was a little closer, chief garbler turned out to be Bill Werenski, WLCJK, with a total of 20,592. In the CW group, a very close race for third and fourth was had between WLIJT-46,831 and WIMVF-46,432.

I wish to commend the gang as a whole for the fine manner in which they turned out to make this a club affair. Special credit goes to the phone gang for their efforts in swelling our club total. I hope now that so many have tasted the fun of a contest of this type, that you will be eagerly awaiting the next one. Oh sure, you get tired after awhile, but somehow that is usually forgotten by the time the next one rolls around.

I have received no scores from other Western Massachusetts clubs or individual stations. From what I could hear on the air, ninety percent of Western Mass. contacts were with HCRC members.

Individual Sweepstakes Scores

Phone		CW	
WICJK	20592	WLJYH	117150
WLRDR	17292	WLEOB	93365
WLRRW	11037	WLIJT	46831
WINLE	10915	WIMVF	46432
WIMQK	10835	WLRHU	30172.50
WIMNG	9540	WLBVR	13743
WIRRX	6200	WLAVK	13000
WLQFB	5920	WLRZG	12040
WLJWV	30	WINY	7250
WINY	30	WLSIT	536.25
WLRED	20	WLKFB	175
TOTALS	92411		380694.75

TOTAL CLUB SCORE 473,105.75

Watch January QST for news about the VHF contest this month. There has been considerable interest in this among Hi-fq boys and I hope the Club can make a good showing. Also coming up in January is a contest of special interest to all of you ten meter fans known as the Ten Meter WAS contest. Rules and information exchange is brief and simple. The January QST will carry complete details. Reporting log forms are available from ARRL on request. Originate a message on the traffic nets asking for these forms. The idea is to work as many stations as possible in as many states as you can. This is for Ten meters only. Let me have your scores after it is over so that we can publish them. Best of luck.

Vic

(Editor's Note: For the October CD party, Vic came out first in the whole country in number of contacts, with 471 completed, and Rog, LJYH, was third with 440)

TRADING POST We have it direct (via ten meter phone) from LEJD, Prexy of Hilltop R.C., Worcester, that there is a brisk demand in their club for used, low-cost receivers and rigs. Arrangements have been made for circulating Zero Beat in Hilltop R.C. to help supply this market from Hampden County.

FOR SALE-Car radio, Delco, is dusty and needs one new tube, otherwise in good condition when removed from 1942 Olds. Asking \$35 but will accept reasonable offer. LSIT

SWAP-One BC-458A for an 80 meter rig or BC-454 with power supply. LSIT  
WANT-Six meter beam or Channel 2 TV antenna. LMNG

ART - Spfld 6-9132

CRYSTAL BAWL If there is sufficient demand, fellow ham, (WIGM) and FCC area No 1 chief, Wally Butterworth, may come up from Boston about the time of our March meeting, to stage unscheduled exams for would-be class B and class A operators. Wally did a similar favor for the Hilltop Club in Worcester one gosh-awful night December 2, but unfortunately, of all the H.C.R.C. boys who hoped they were ready, willing and able to take their respective exam, only two had a crack at it. Those who are interested, see the club secretary, Ken Gurney, LSIT, and start reviewing, but fast.

YE NEEDLING DEPT Some of our associate editors have been applying the prod in their respective departments, so we boil it down to this:

It's YOUR club, YOUR publication and YOUR full shoulder to the wheel that puts both over. Give the executive committee, particularly Bill (RRX) and Art (MNG) your preferences and leads for subjects and speakers. Happenings on the bands, be it traffic, DX, technical enlightenments or confusions, or chatter, get it to the particular associate editor who handles it, or even Ye Ed himself. Whether

your specialty is traffic, dx, contests, local rag-chews, phone or c.w., hi or lo freq, give it your best and ALSO give one of those other departments a whirl. Who knows? You may like it! JYH, with callouses on his key fingers, and who never touched a mike unless he had his gloves on, now is running a modulator with that hi-powered final, and bringing in new phone dx which he modestly admits if you bend his arm far enough. On the other hand, we always heard IJT exclusively (and sleepily) on phone, that is until the last year, when he's been going in for plenty cw, including traffic b'gosh.

CLIPPINGS St. Paul Radio Club, Inc. has indicated it would like to swap its bulletin "The Ground Wave" and several other clubs have shown similar interest. We note from their December issue their advisory board has recommended purchase of test equipment including scope in kit form, audio osc., and grid-dip osc. Also noted:

#### DIARY OF A GIRL'S FIRST OCEAN VOYAGE

Monday-- Chief Engineer wanted to make love to me. Said "No!"

Tuesday-- Chief Engineer wanted to kiss me. Said "No."

Wednesday--Chief Engineer said he would blow up the ship.

Thursday--I saved 450 souls.

TRAFFIC Armed with several excuses and alibis, I will first admit that I was on by LRHU WMN only 2 nights this month, and on SSN three noons (from school). I have been rebuilding my rig, and am just getting the first of the bugs out of it. (I got the final going right five minutes after I was gently reminded of this column. Hi!) The news is all second hand and scanty.

LMNG and LLJQ have called into WMN occasionally this month. We hope to see them some more. LEOB handled traffic direct with the West Coast on 80 meters one night. Traffic this month has been thick. LBVR handled 48, 68, and 48 messages on three successive nights. LEOB has done even more. LRHU grabbed over ten messages a day off SSN three noons while operating Tech High Radio Club transmitter, and cleared it through skeds with LRZG at 1500. One night he walked out of school at 4:30 p.m. Hi! Some of the gang on SSN would have over 100 messages on the hook when they QNI.

With traffic like this, all BPL records should be broken this month. The top position is left open for someone. W4PL has had to go to Florida on doctor's orders.

The traffic manual I spoke of last month is slowly progressing.

CU NEXT MONTH 73

Russ

#### JOTTINGS

\*Dave Lloyd, for one, appreciated those windshield scrapers passed around by Murray, when he hit bad weather on his nightly trip to Holyoke.

\*Wonder if Rog, LJYH, got that surplus waist-gate motor to perk as a beam rotator. He sure had a puzzled expression hiking down the street with it cradled in one hand.

\*Have you heard Art, LMNG, puff lately? That's from climbing up on the roof every time he turns the beam to answer a CQ in your direction.

\*Wonder if Rog, LJYH, got that bad throat by switching from key to mike lately. C.W. operators don't usually have that trouble.

\*Dave, PHU, is right onto his job as chairman of the membership committee, getting visitors introduced and the new members mixing in with the older ones. Making every one feel acquainted with everyone else is a mighty good thing.

\*Some clubs have phone vs c.w. troubles. We note there were eleven phone entries as well as eleven c.w. entries reported elsewhere in this issue for the club's participation in SS contest.

TECHNICAL TOPICS  
by WLQWV

A recent issue of Radio News described a tubeless grid-dip meter. The circuit is very simple and the cost of parts low.

Our method of construction was to build it around a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch polystyrene tube and is shown in Figure 1. The schematic is shown in Figure 2. To use as grid dip meter, feed signal from R.F. signal generator until the 0-1 milliammeter reads  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  scale. Couple coil end of tube to circuit under investigation. As the signal generator is tuned through its range a very pronounced dip will be noticed on the milliammeter when the resonant frequency of the circuit under investigation is found. It is only necessary to note the frequency on the signal generator and that is the frequency of the circuit.

The unit may also be used to check modulation on an A.M. transmitter. Short the signal generator end of the coax, substitute a headphone for the meter and bring unit near transmitter tank.

It has been extremely useful in checking neutralization. Again short the signal generator end of coax and using meter loosely coupled to tank circuit. With plate voltage off final amplifier, any meter reading when the final tank condenser is tuned through resonance shows that the stage is not neutralized. It is then only necessary to adjust the neutralizing condensers until there is no indication on meter.

There are 101 uses for this little gimmick; once you build one, you will soon find out how valuable it can be.

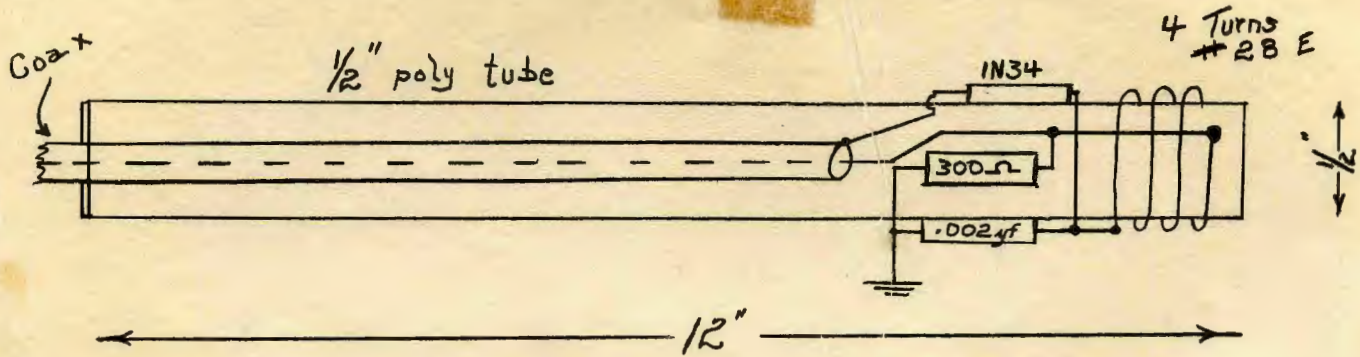


FIGURE # 1

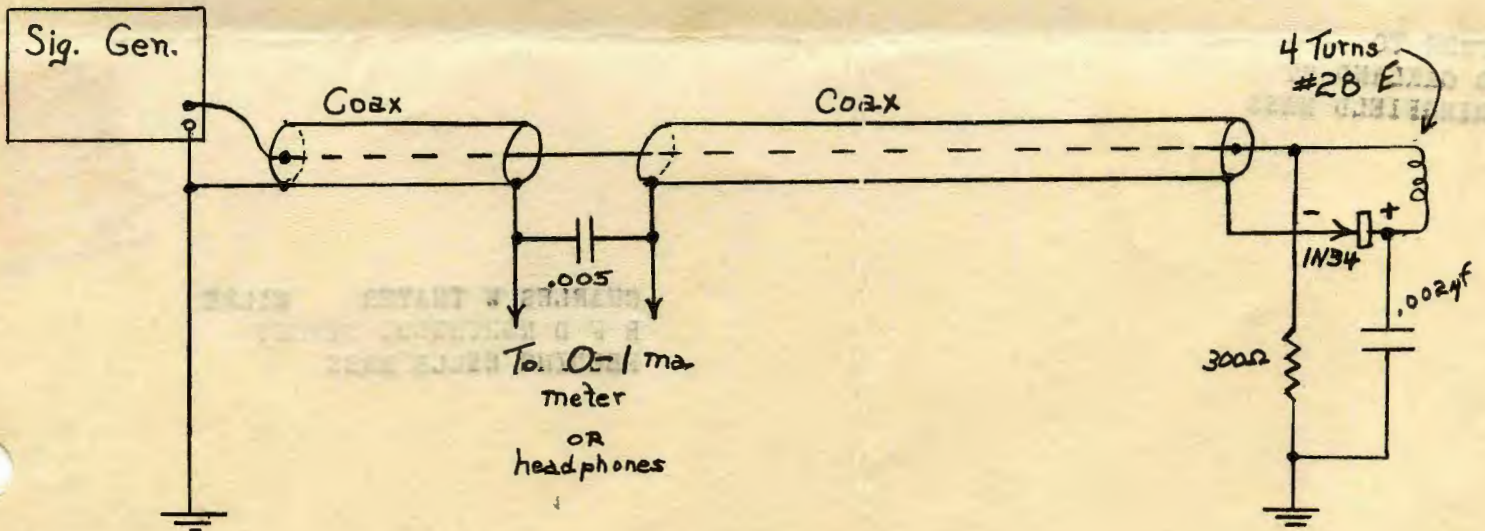


FIGURE # 2