

# ZERO BEAT

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

Vol. II

March 1949

No. 3

President  
Vice President

Victor Paounoff WIEOB  
Richard Stevens WIQWJ

Secretary  
Treasurer

Clarence Bordeau WIIJT  
Robert Adolphson WINLE

\* \* \* \* \*

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next gettogether will not be on the first Friday of the month as usual. Instead, we are having a bang-up shindig at the Red Barn (on the road from Chicopee Falls to Willimansett (see map on the last page) at 7:30 p.m., March 5, 1949. Bob Lieson is chairman of the banquet committee and promises us a filet-mignon dinner, \$1.50 to club members and \$3.00 to their guests, YLs and XYLs that is. In order that we may let the management of the Red Barn know how many to expect, please fill out the enclosed card and drop it in the mail as soon as possible. After the dinner there will be dancing for those who are not too full to get up from the table; there will be prizes for both the gals and the fellows and, perhaps most important of all, there will be no long-winded speeches.

\* \* \* \* \*

THOSE WHO were absent from the meeting in February missed a lot of good dope on FM antennas as given by Larry Reilly, WLGP, Chief Engineer of WSPR. Larry discussed the different types of FM transmitting antennas in the order of their development and gave examples of their practical applications. After the talk was over we all were well aware that the only thing Larry doesn't know about antennas is how to draw them in three dimensions! The door prize, for once, was won by one of our regular members instead of a guest. Glen Guernsey, 1RRW, took home a 1500v C. T. plate transformer through the courtesy of Hatry & Young.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE TVI COMMITTEE reports one consistently recurring comment from TV listeners--to wit-- "Some 'amateur' turns his transmitter on every night at 7 p.m. and leaves it on until 9 p.m." Now, we know it isn't a single side band phone, the unused side moving over into the TV channels for diversion, and we know that no licensed amateur keeps his carrier on for two hours without signing his call, so it must be that something else is causing TVI around town. As yet, the committee hasn't found the real cause of the blurred pictures but they hope to sleuth out the trouble soon.

FLASH! The latest bulletin from ARRL to affiliated clubs announces probable resumption of amateur operation on a part of our old 160 meter band in the very near future. While it will not be the same in all areas, for our part of the country 1800-1825 kc and 1875-1900 kcs is expected. Power is to be limited to 500 watts by day and 200 watts by night. The March issue of QST will carry full details. We are particularly cautioned, however, not to use these frequencies until final word is received from the FCC.

\* \* \* \* \*

TWO METERS has been gathering momentum of late with the Hartford district Monday nighters getting quite numerous and the Springfield gang are pitching in too. Perhaps before long we will have a revival of the old Wednesday night 144 Club. Listen in Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. and help start the ball rolling.

\* \* \* \* \*

JUDGING FROM the six meter beams under construction at 1QWJ, 1RFU, and 1NY we will soon have more activity in those wide open spaces. In fact, it is even rumored that LEOB is considering the inclusion of a modulator in his new rig with an eye on the six meter band.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOUQUETS were passed recently, to Jim Finnerty, 1LDE, by the local paper for his current schedules with DL4ZU. There were some garbled references to bootleg stations which should be taken with a grain of salt, and you no doubt recognized the call 1LBE given as Jimmy's to be more of the same. Incidentally, Jimmy, by action of the Executive committee is our sole honorary member.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE FIRST weekend of the DX contest will have come and gone by the time this paper reaches you. At this writing only the CW weekend has passed and among those heard were 1KFV, 1IJT, 1AVK, 1EOB and 1JYH. Probably there were others so may we remind you once again, whether you worked 1 station or a thousand send your totals in to 1JYH for compiling and forwarding to the League for a Club score.

\* \* \* \* \*

TWENTY METERS has redeemed itself somewhat after a spell of poor conditions during January and we find that the far East is coming through on both phone and CW in the mornings before work. Anyone tuning across the band these days will notice some strange sounding prefixes due to recent changes for some of the U. S. possessions and occupied countries, KR6 is now Okinawa, DU is for the Phillipines, the Caroline Islands have now been assigned KC6; if you hear YK1AF on 20 CW he is ex ARLOD in Damascus and of course all the boys in Japan are now signing JA. Bob Lieson, 1KFV has been hot after DX lately and has been adding better than one new one a week since the first of the year including such gems as FOSAC, CT3AA, VQ5JTW and others. 1JYH also feels pretty happy about adding PK4DA during the contest and YK1AF just before the melee.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE met at Bill Rosner's on the 10th of February and unanimously approved the membership applications of Sam Bennett, 1OJK and Hank Stoddard, 1GBC. These applications will be voted on at the April meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

FIELD DAY is just around the corner! Committees of course will be appointed to handle the various phases of this activity very shortly but of course it will be impossible for us to know every one who will want to get into the fun. Consequently, if it so happens that you are left out when the committees are selected, don't hesitate to make it known. This is one activity in which every member can take part whether it is putting mustard on the hot dogs or repairing the generator with gum and rubber bands. It is expected that there will be activity on all bands, phone and CW.

\* \* \* \* \*

WE HAVE, from time to time, asked for news from the members to help make our little periodical more readable. This month's mail brought forth a very worth while letter from Perce Noble, LBVR concerning Traffic and Emergency Corps nets. Whereas we seldom print contributions "as is", Perce has given so much thought to this subject that we quote as follows:

"WHY SHOULD I TAKE PART IN TRAFFIC NETS OR EMERGENCY CORPS NETS?"

"Amateur radio has one sole justification for its existence-- it is in the Public Interest and Necessity. During the years, it has operated that way. Since the war, however, it seems to me that many of our newly licensed amateurs have lost sight of this completely. Perhaps it is the fault of ARRL for not informing them of this at even more frequent intervals. Even though we buy our equipment and pass our license examinations, we still operate our stations as a privilege - not as a right. When we fail to operate in the Public Interest, then we jeopardize our whole future. Many of the old timers in this game of ours appreciate this fact. But, we need new blood to take the places of these oldtimers when they are no longer active.

"Don't you think you could spare say one night a month (for perhaps about an hour) to take part in either a traffic net or an emergency corps drill? How about taking a few minutes sometime to look at the 'Message Handling', 'Emergency Operation', and 'League Operating Organization' sections of the ARRL Handbook?"

"If you are interested in Emergency Corps work, see your local Emergency Co-ordinator. If you are interested in Phone Traffic nets (either 75 or 10 meters - or below), see the West. Mass. Phone Activities Manager, Hank Baier, WLNK, 18 Ripley Street, Wilbraham. And, if you are interested in CW traffic nets, here is the dope right now - and we need you every one! The West. Mass. 80 CW traffic net operates Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays on 3760 kc. for about half or three quarters of an hour starting at 7:00 PM. Most of the control signals are sent at about 15 or 18 words per minute (straight key). In cases where traffic is being sent to fast operators, bug keys are used and the traffic is moved as rapidly as possible. Many of our present net members are not fast operators, but they seem to enjoy the net operations! We do not use the regular "Q" signals, but the signals we do use are listed on page 316 of the summer 1948 call book. If you can't find the list in your edition, let me know and I'll gladly send you one. Now, if you will forgive me, I'm going to speak a bit about CW. I'm the Route Manager of West. Mass., and as such I am in charge of the CW nets. Regular attendance on a CW traffic net will bring any ham's speed up to 30 WPM within a period of two years. You'll have fun getting to that speed. And, as your CW speed does increase, you will take a more active part in other CW activities. How about giving it a whirl? Take a listen on 3760 kc. some night at the times given above. You'll learn how to handle messages and work in a controlled net. All free for nothin' ".

*Now Emergency Service*

