

President's Corner

You know I've been pushing emergency preparedness for the past two issues. While most of New England was hit hard by the blizzard, Western Mass was passed by. Electricity and telephones stayed on, so the need for backup Ham communications was never that great. In Eastern Mass it was very different. The emergency nets were put on standby, with many sections checking in and monitoring. Net discipline was excellent, with only a few clods yakking about trivia. However, I did receive calls from club members wanting to know how to help. Its very difficult to give a five minute course in net procedures over the telephone. The time to learn what to do is when the sun is shining, not when snow drifts six feet high are against the house. You are next to useless to the government rescue agencies, and your fellow Hams if everything is not ready before hand. We just finished the SET Simulated Emergency Test less than two weeks ago. When the power goes you've got to have those batteries ready. Candles, lanterns, flashlights are needed so that you can see to write messages. A camp stove is great, gives the wife something to do, and hot coffee for the OM. There are other things that will make you a valueable asset in an real emergency. Think about it and get ready before hand.

K1BE
Jeff

P.S. Please do not telephone me after 10PM
I go to sleep early with the chickens.

ZERO BEAT
Issue Three

Pres	Jeff Duquette	K1BE	569-6739
V.Pres	Bruce Felper	WA1PUX	
Treas	Steve Shure	WA1ZEV	
Sec	Lars Soltz	WB1CJH	567-3444
OBeet	Bob McCormick	WA1QHR	562-5767

Next Meeting
Friday, March 3rd, 1978 7:30 PM
Feeding Hills Church
Feeding Hills, Ma. 01030

The next meeting of the HCRA is Friday, March 3rd at 7:30PM in Feeding Hills. Morgan R. Davis, an experienced emergency medical technician, will give a demonstration of what your response should be if someone has been electrocuted. You may save someone's life by attending this lecture. Members of the ARES in particular should learn advanced First Aid, because you may end up in situations where an injured person depends on you.

Steve Shore, WA1ZEV, is in charge of this meeting program. We will also have a raffle for a Call Book and a Yearbook. See you there!

The Provin Mtn. repeater club will have a flea market on April 9th from 10:00AM until 5:00PM at the Newington High School. Bring your license and stop at the league which is just 2 minutes away and do some operating.

February Meeting Report

Club meeting started promptly at 8:00 when K1BE, Jeff, called the meeting to order. After a couple of formalities and some club business, Ted Lockwood, WA1GZD, received a engraved plaque for being president of HCRA for two consecutive years, after which we were going to hear our speaker, Jay Rusgrove.

After stalling for a couple of moments, Bruce, WA1PUX, gave a intro for Jay, WA1LNQ, who never showed, which was followed by a pep talk, question and answer period by our club president K1BE.

This was highly successful and well received. Comments heard on 34 94 after the meeting were Jeff did a good job, really kept the meeting moving....i'm glad we had that meeting...it gave everybody a chance to get together and talk...

At this time I would like to take the time to thank Jeff for doing a fantastic job with the HCRA this year. Keep up the good work.
WA1PUX Bruce

A Novice course will begin Wednesday March 8th. It will run for 10 weeks and use Tune in the World as the textbook. Code will be taught and no prior experience is necessary.

A General class will begin on Thursday, March 9th and will run for 10 weeks. No code will be taught. A Novice level of theory is required to take the course. The goal of the course is to pass element 3A, not to turn you into an electronic genius. Homework is required. Besides the fees listed below, there is also a \$5.00 homework fee.

Both of these courses are being sponsored by the Jewish Community Center, 1160 Dickinson Street, Springfield, Ma. There is a \$10.00 fee for members, \$14.00 for non-members. For the Novice course you must buy Tune in the World, which costs \$7.00. All other materials will be provided free. For the General course you must purchase the new Amateur Licensing Guide for \$3.00. All other materials will be provided free.

The course instructor is Jeffrey J. Duquette, K1BE, who has taught these classes for the past two years. Slides, films, posters, and lectures will be used to teach the course. If you'd be interested in teaching the course or coming in to help, let Jeff know. To sign up for either course, contact the Jewish Community Center at 739-4715. Pre-registration is required, and enrollment is limited. Sign up early to be sure of a place!

Radio Quiz

Directions: Pick the best one!

You have just turned your two meter on and asked QRZ FROM WB1XYZ. A station comes back immediately and informs you that an emergency is in progress. You should:

- a. Come right back asking for information and offer your assistance.
- b. Sign his call, then yours and announce that you'll be monitoring.
- c. Immediately shut your rig off.
- d. Immediately stand by and see if you can be of assistance.

2. You are tuning across the 20 Meter band and hear W1XYZ and a station in England passing traffic. You should:

- a. Interrupt and let them know there is no third party agreement between our countries.
- b. Put a carrier on so they won't break the law.
- c. Mind your own business.
- d. Report them to the FCC.

3. You are Net control station for a phone traffic net. WB1XYZ begins to pass you through traffic, but is not using the ARRL format. You should:

- a. Immediately move on to a station that knows what they are doing.
- b. Have WB1XYZ QRT.
- c. Take the time on a busy net to explain net procedure.
- d. Have an experienced station QSY off net frequency with WB1XYZ to explain how to pass formal traffic.

4. Station WB1XYZ asks for a signal report from anyone on the local repeater. You sign your call and reply that you're FDQ OM. He asks you Whats FDQ?? You should reply:

- a. What are you, stupid?
- b. How long have you been licensed?
- c. Did you hear that question, guys?
- d. It means full dead quieting into the machine.

We have donated a complete set of League publications to the Springfield City Library. A display of Amateur Radio handouts, posters and books has been set up. Stop by and say Hi and check it out. Maybe we'll set a few new members because of this.

At the April HCRA meeting we are going to have a special raffle. Every club member is asked to send his QSL card in to ZB. We would like you to list on the back your license class, phone number, and whether or not you're an ARRL member. All QSL cards will go into the drawings to win a 1978 Handbook. We are also going to pin them up on the wall and send the picture into QST. The HCRA

will keep the QSL cards of all club members in a central file, to be added to in the future. Don't be left out of this one!

Board Meetings Report

Several important decisions of interest to the general membership were made at the February board meetings. The board voted to have a club Field Day in June and also to support Mt. Tom's. This way members of both clubs can support the MTARA and they'll have a good chance to win in the FD contest. For those who belong only to the HCRA or would like a quiet low key Field Day, we will be operating as a club. More on specifics in the future.

The board has voted NOT to have a club raffle this year. They decided to spend the money for an excellent door prize for our June banquet and many nice small ones. The treasurer's report was read and accepted, we have a balance of \$674.03. Advertising is going out on our May Flea Market. Planning has begun on the June banquet. A nominating committee for next years officers was formed and is headed by Burce Felser, WA1PUX.

Larry Soltz will check out the possibility of having an Amateur Radio booth at the Eastern States Exposition. Complete minutes of all board meetings are on file and can be inspected. See the club Secretary, Larry, WB1CJH.

New Members

WB1DLU Phil
WB1FJK Walt
WB1ETS Ron
WB1AUV Tom

WB1BZG Don
WA1VUA Paul
WB1FIP Moe
WB1BPJ Dave

When was the last time you:

Worked CW??

Worked on the Novice bands??

Turned off your linear and went barefoot??

Thought about upgrading your license??

Built a home brew rig??

Misc Notes from ZB

This months ZB contains a full page ad for our May flea market. Please drop it off at the nearby electronics store or CR club. Spread the word so our flea market is a success.....Dick, W1GUG is the new president of Mt. Tom. He did a great job on 3/4/94 during storm Larry. His efforts were appreciated, especially by K1BE, who's car limped home on a win and a prayer. Special thanks to WB1BPM, Dave, who stopped to help Jeff. Don, W1UPH, is the new Mt. Tom vice prez, and Barb, WB1EHS, is the secretary. Dave continues as the treasurer.....K1IQA, Bins, activated the emergency net during the blizzard, and at times 83 stations were standing by to offer help. The Red Cross was out there doing a good job.....KM1CC QSLs are starting to arrive, nice looking too. We hope to put a slide show together on it, anything to offer?.....If

your address changes, its up to you to let ZB know. Zip codes are required, as that's how you're listed in the membership directories. Without it you end up in limbo.....W1UKR, Eunie is off to Florida and sunshine for two weeks.....Dave summer, K1ZZ, gave a nice talk on WARC at the Mt. Tom Feb meetings.....The Dayton Hamfest is April 28-30 this year. Look for WA1PUX, K1BE, and K8SJ in the flea market area. If you participated in the Nostalgia exchange there's a dinner out there too.....Zero Beat is usually sent to the printer by the 20th. Baring unforeseen blizzards or flu, we try to mail it seven days before the meetings. Get your adds in early.....Channel 69 has gone on the air. Its all sports, and you almost have to live on Provin Mtn. to receive it.....Jeff, K1BE, is writing an article about the HCRA for Ham Radio Horizons. He needs your thoughts and comments. Maybe you'll get your call in HRH. Send what you think makes for a successful or unsuccessful club to box 346, Southwick, Ma. 01077.....A plaque was presented to Ted Lockwood, WA1GZO, from the club in appreciation for his efforts as past president. Many thanks Ted....The FCC will be in Hartford around April 18-20. Send in Form 610 with I Will Appear in Hartford, Ct. marked on it. SASE to ZB will set you a Form 610.....We have received beaucoup letters ordering the new Yaesu mosfets. Hope you're happy with them. They should be at the March meetings, baring unforeseen difficulties.....Your comments are solicited in regards to the following: What kind of door prizes for the June banquet? Should we have a Field Day??.....Articles for the last three issues of ZB are needed. Remember we'll be giving away prizes at the banquet to the best authors. Send one in with your QSL card for the raffle.....Short want ads for paid up members can be passed over the HCRA ten meter net, 28.650 Mondays at 8:00PM.....Many thanks to the club members who passed last month's Zero Beat on to a friend. We've received several new members because of it.....Bob Phoenix, WA1DNB is the SEC for Western Mass. Hams who are members of the ARES and ordered that nice ARRL/ARES patch, Bob has them. Also, if you wish to continue as an ARES member, you must check into one net per month from now on.....Bruce heard from Jay Rusgrove on Feb 14th. Seems he missed the church and drove into Southwick, turned around on Rt. 57 and found himself in Amherst (?) and then went home.....The estate of WA1QWI is for sale. An SASE to Dick Stevens, W1QWJ, Crest Rd., Monson, Ma. 01057 will set you the equipment price list.....Dick, WB1DMF, passed his Technician and just missed the 13 WPM.....Norm, N1PF, has 22 students enrolled in his General course.....A new illegal has begun appearing on the local repeaters. He assigns himself W1 or K1 calls. Too bad he's using a call sign 30 years old and has the voice of a ten year old. The various repeater groups might want to get together now to plan co-ordination of triangulating and DF activities. There's no reason for every club to duplicate efforts.....Mike, W1DGJ, is looking for 811A tubes. Get ahold of him or ZB if you have any you would like to unload. And Bruce, WA1PUX, has for sale a Yaesu FTdx560, 80-10 transceiver running 560 Watts barefoot. It is in perfect running Cndx. He wants just \$400.00. Also he has a Teac A220 stereo cassette tape deck with the Teac AN-60 Dolby unit for \$100.00. Call Bruce at A/C 203 232-1128.....See you at the meetings!

THE HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASS'N. Inc.

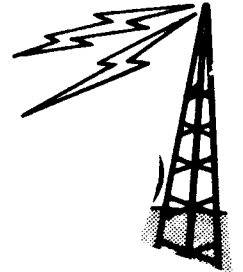
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

FRIDAY MAY 5, 1978

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
INTERSECTIONS OF ROUTES 57 AND 187,
FEEDING HILLS, MASS.



DOORS OPEN AT 7:15 PM

FREE TABLE SPACE TO MEMBERS OF ARRL AFFILIATED CLUBS!
(BE READY TO SHOW PROOF OF CLUB MEMBERSHIP/AFFILIATION.)

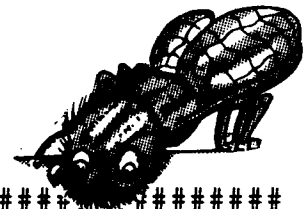
\$1.00 PER NON-BUSINESS/HOBBY TABLES.

\$2.00 PER BUSINESS TABLE SPACE.

(Each space is about 15 square feet)

.25¢ ADMISSION PUTS YOU IN THE RAFFLE!

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For more information:

Jeffrey J. Duquette K1BE

P.O. Box 346

Southwick, Mass 01077

Phone (413) 569-6739 (Not after 10 pm)

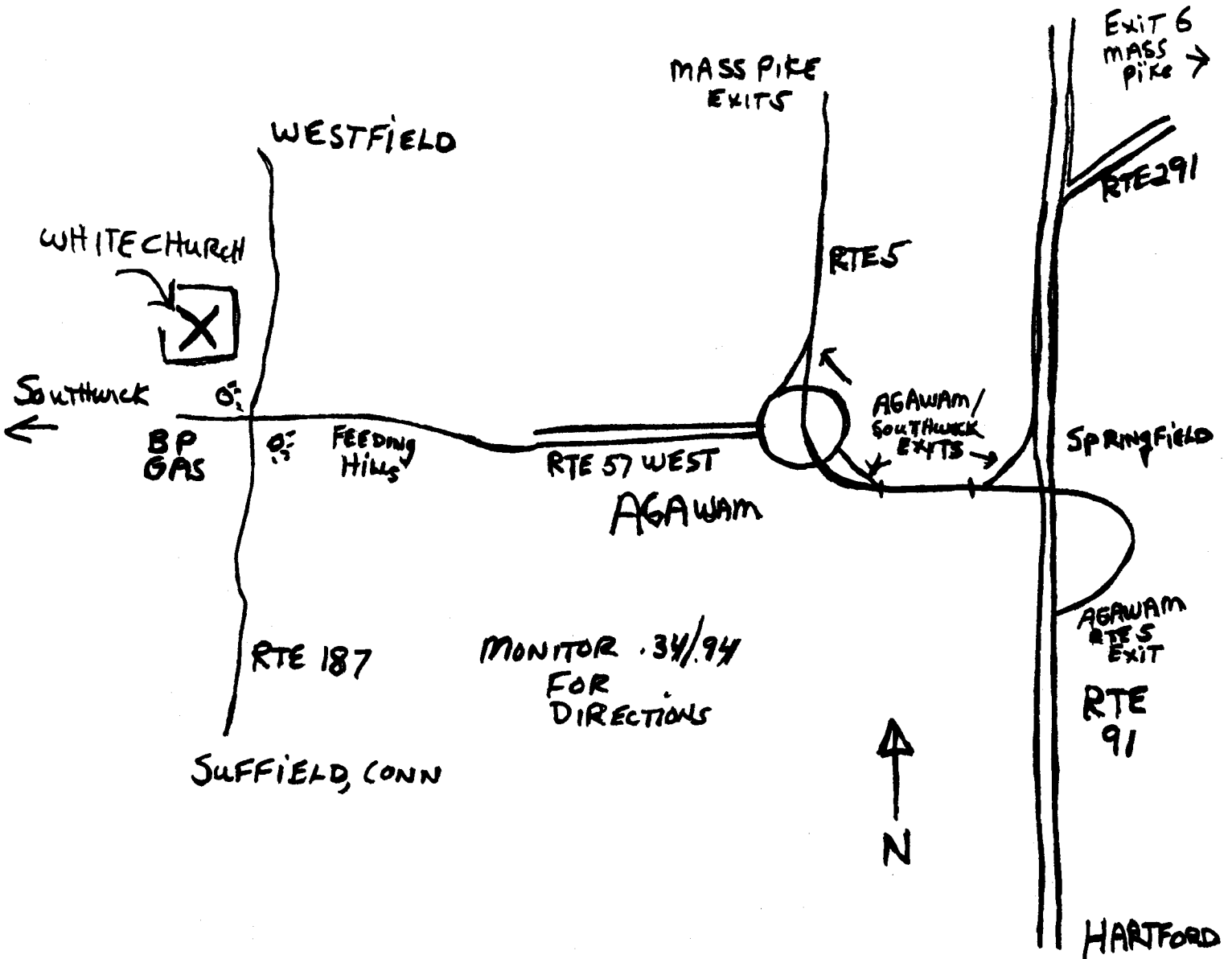


The Hampden County Radio Association, Inc., is a non-profit corporation of radio amateurs interested in the investigation of the technical aspects of the communication arts. The club is the base for the first district QSL bureau. We are affiliated with the American Radio Relay League and endorse their programs. The HCRA is a general interest radio club and does not operate any amateur repeaters. Meetings are held the first Friday of every month, (except July and August) and annual auctions, flea markets, banquets, and general interest programs make up the schedule. The association participates in many radio programs throughout each year, and almost every operating event in QST lists at least one club member's call. The club's station call is "W1NY", and is in memory of Hank Baier. Dues are \$5.00 for 12 months and everyone is welcome. "Zero Beat", our club newsletter is sent out ten times a year to all members. We hope to see you at our annual flea market.

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(PAID ADVERTISEMENT)

AMATEUR RADIO GENERAL LICENSING COURSE

BEGINS THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1978
TEN WEEKS, 7 to 9 PM

WHERE: JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
1160 DICKINSON STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MASS

COURSE CONTENTS:

AC AND DC THEORY	MODULATION
DIODES AND POWER SUPPLIES	RECEIVERS
AMPLIFIER THEORY	FEEDLINES
OSCILLATORS	PROPAGATION
TRANSISTORS	INTEGRATED CIRCUITS
FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS	

Course will cover everything you need to pass element 3(A) for an Amateur General or Technicians's license. No morse code will be taught! Students are expected to have a basic novice level understanding at the beginning of the class.

Instructor is Jeffrey J. Duquette, K1BE, President of the Hampden County Radio Association, holder of the Second Class Commercial Radiotelephone with radar endorsement license, and Amateur Extra class license. Slides, films, demonstrations, lectures and practical testing will be used. Textbook will be "The Radio Amateur's License Manual". (Costs \$3.00) Homework is required. Enrollment is limited, contact the Jewish community Center to sign up. Cost is \$10.00 to members, \$14.00 to non-members. (plus \$5.00 homework fee) phone 739-4715.

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THE NOVICE COURSE STARTS WEDNESDAY MARCH 8th, phone for details!

WANT ADS

For Sale: AM-FM Stereo cassette in dash car radio 4 watts RMS into 8 ohms. (both channels driven) excellent FM reception (better than lots of Pioneers I've heard) Price \$80.00 Unused in box. Contact WA1PUB, Glenn Robertson Box 468, Worc. Poly Tech. Insti, Worcester, Mass 01609

For Sale: Viking Valient, VFO or Xtal, \$160. B0; Central Electronics -20A for \$70. B0 Lakeside VFO -B0 Contact Myles W1MOK

NEEDED: Someone with the time and equipment who would volunteer to demonstrate OSCAR at the Peck School- Holyoke- All lectures and videotape will have been accomplished. Date any weekday after April 14th-Your convenience! Lunch provided , Contact Jim Smith W1RBU

At this writing we are less than forty-five days into 1978 and already the public-service oriented amateur radio ops have had two grand opportunities to evaluate our emergency communications capabilities. The first evaluation comes from the simulated emergency test (SET) of Jan. 29 & 29 followed eight days later by the real thing for New Englanders, storm "Larry".

On the basis of reports that I have received from W. Mass. net managers and emergency coordinators, together with my personal observations, I would like to pass along my summation on this section's emergency communications capabilities and performance.

The SET week-end activities provided a rosy picture of good coordination of MTS/ARES operations, a high level of participation on both HF and VHF repeater net sessions, moderate to low volume of traffic handling of the various nets, but with improved quality of formal message handling. Approximately 200 individual stations participated, not all of them from W. Mass. section, and I have yet to confirm that the ratio of ARES/non-ARES stations will leave ARES heavily in the minority. Two-meter stations using non-commercial power were prevalent on a 3/1 ratio and the number of emergency-powered stations on the 75 meter nets more than doubled over previous exercises. Finalizing the SET exercise of 1978, it was a fine performance by many cooperative stations operating for the benefit of the the amateur fraternity and carried on in the comfortable confines of our individual homes.

Moving along to the real situation experienced on Feb. 6 & 7, the blizzard which paralyzed a large portion of New England, we in W. Mass. section sure lucked-out on that one. There were no serious emergency situations involving the population west of Worcester. I was well aware that WRIABX was very active during the storm period, but I was not aware that WRIAED was also activated to handle Red Cross traffic for the Springfield Chapter. Having worked myself into a locked-in situation on 52 simplex I could not QSY to AED or AEX to investigate activities on those repeaters. Misconceptions on ARES operations procedures may be the weakness in our Section-wide communications system. As stated in the ARRL Public-Service Communications Manual "when an emergency situation arises, the usual procedure is for an official of a served agency (e.g., the Red Cross, Civil Defense, etc.) to notify a representative of the amateur service (e.g., the emergency coordinator, with whom he should have had previous contact) of specific requirements for emergency communications. The EC then alerts the ARES crew via whatever pre-arrangements they have made." The MTARA emergency coordinator (also the Hampden County EC) and the membership followed procedures properly and filled Civil Defense requirements as requested. The P.M.R.A. via WRIAED filled Spfld. Red Cross requirements, but may have expedited their traffic handling needs through the more extensive use of ARES operations. If any public or governmental agency in Berkshire, Franklin or Worcester Counties requested communications assistance via ARES I was not made aware of it.

Concluding this (hopefully enlightening) dissertation on the ARES, its development and function, the five basic steps to the ultimate purpose are:

- 1) Recruit, train and maintain a corps of amateur radio operators knowledgeable in established network functions. (This function is pretty well established in most of W. Mass. section as confirmed during the SET.)
- 2) Acquaint public and governmental agencies (e.g. Civil Defense, Red Cross, local P.D. and F.D., medical facilities) with the existence of our organization which has been developed for the purpose of serving them when needed.
- 3) Attempt to hold test exercises with some of these served agencies. This can provide ARES members with interesting action and the basis for evaluation of system performance.
- 4) When emergency situations become evident or are forecast, activate local nets (repeaters), notify served agency officials of your status and, if section level or MTS operations appear necessary, notify the SEC, SCM, RM, and/or PAM, one or all of these ARES/MTS officials.

Even if an emergency operation is confined to a localized area it is recommended that the SEC be informed of the situation as soon as possible to allow him preparation time should expansion of communications operations become necessary.

Keep in mind that, unlike our SET exercises which has not involved our customers (served agencies), many ARES members would probably be called on to leave the comfort and safety of our homes to provide mobile and/or portable communications during actual disaster situations. This surely will separate the men from the boys. We have yet to prove how many ARES members are in the former category, (myself included).

My TXK and Congratulations to all concerned,

RH
Bob Phoenix, WA1DNE
SEC W. Mass. Sec'n.

WANT AD

For Sale: Shure 454 Mike, \$5.00 783-1867 Joe K1ZOC

Needed: Desperate! Schematic for Waterman Pocket Scops, twin tube, 5-15-A contact Al, WA1SMH

MAR 78

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