

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Serving Greater Springfield, MA

Remarks from the President

Sit back in your favorite chair and let me take you on a trip down memory lane. The year is 1954, the place is under the kitchen sink, the big event was showing mom how I was able to listen to WTIC and WDRC AM with my little crystal radio I had built. My ground clip was on the sink's drainpipe and a wire antenna was strung all the way out to a tree in the back yard. I was 10 years old, full of wonder and question, I was hooked.

The year 1958: I saved my money caddying and bought a National Radio NC188. The world via shortwave radio was in my bedroom. Who were the people taking around 4 megacycles? I didn't know who or how they got there but it sure was fun listening!

The year 1962: A friend of mine told me about talking on CB radio. He told me you just had to fill out a form, build a radio, and I could talk over the airwaves. I built a Heathkit GW-10 and by the time it was finished the FCC sent me my first license. 1Q0113. It was Miller Time! It doesn't get better than this. "1Q0113 listening on channel 4. Can anyone copy?". I lived on a nice little hilltop in Manchester, CT, talked to great DX from Long Island through

Vermont, many late evenings were spent listening for the weak signals. My CB name was Stan. This was before the crowded bands and CB handles.

I figured out what those guys were doing on 4 megacycles. They were hams. I knew you had to learn the code. Oh well, anybody on channel 4? No time for code. All my time was spent at UConn, studying, golfing, and then I met Linda. No time for code. It was much more important to put up an antenna at Linda's so I could always be in touch with her.

I graduated from UConn in 1967. I married Linda in 1968. Life finally seemed less hectic. We were members of a local CB club. The band was getting crowded. It was not easy to work Long Island or Vermont. The summer skip would come in and 10 miles was difficult to work. I started to learn the code. Every day I practiced. Every sign I saw STOP dit dit dit, dah, dah dah dah, dit dah dah dit. It seemed like a lifetime, why couldn't I get it!

A radio club wanted me to be their president. I gave it a shot. Coffee breaks, picnics, and meetings. We met lots of wonderful friends, we encouraged each other to learn the code and go for our license. Progress seemed too slow, as if it were in reverse at times. Oh well, is anyone on channel 4?

Next VE exam will be October 3rd, 7:00pm at the Agawam High School

Next meeting will be October 5th, 8:00pm at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Club Officers

President—Stan Hilinski, KAIZE
Vice President—Jim Sebolt, N1DUY
Treasurer—Greg Stoddard, N1AEH

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Charlie Dunlap, K1II	Bob Cohen, K1CPJ
Larry Lemoine, N1EPE	Fred Stefanik, N1DPM
Steve Nelson, WA1EYF	Frank Potts, NC1I
Cliff Junkins, W1UWX	Scott Cohen, KA1QAS

Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted as long as credit is given to Zero Beat

I went to the ARRL looking for a movie to show at a club meeting. I met Bob Meyers W1FBY, now W1XT, who was in charge of public services. I talked with Bob about my interest in Amateur Radio. He pulled out a code practice oscillator and asked if I was ready to try the code. PANIC! NO! He said "Send me a little". Well, that wasn't so bad. Now he asked if I could copy. He sent a few lines from QST. Bob said I passed. I said I didn't know I was taking a test. I was on top of the world. He sent away for the theory portion of the test, and four weeks later I passed that with ease. Six weeks later, August 14th, 1969, I was WN1MAO.

This month I will end with the beginning. This has been a slightly different message from your president. I know you all have your own stories. Put something down on paper and get it to our Zero Beat editor. I would like to read about what floats your boat.

I'll see you all at the October meeting. 73's, Stan.

A True Story II

by Mike Ludkiewicz, W1DGJ

In the spring of 1965 I made a contact on 20 meters with AC3PT in Gangtok, Sikkim. At the time of the contact I did not know the person on the other end was the king of Sikkim!

Sikkim is located on the southern slopes Himalayas between India, Bhutan, Tibet (China), and Nepal. The country is about 1/3 the size of Massachusetts and has a population of 210,000. Sikkim was a protectorate of India since 1950 and ruled by the Namgyal dynasty since the 17th century.

Palden Thondup Namgyal, AC3PT, and Crown Prince of Sikkim gained worldwide attention when he married Hope Cooke, an American debutante from New York. The Indian government opposed the marriage of the prince, a Buddhist, to a foreign Episcopalian. The couple ignored their objections and were married on March 20, 1963. Neither converted to the other's religion. The wedding had been delayed one year upon the advice of astrologers who said 1962 was not a lucky year. This was when Palden's luck went bad!

After the marriage, the prince began to work for his country's independence. His father and King of

Sikkim, Sir Tashi Namgyal, died in 1964 thereby turning the throne over to his son to become Chogyal (King) of Sikkim. He was not crowned until April 4, 1965, a date again chosen by court astrologers and other holy people. Palden's dreams were to make the country an independent state but the Indian government was concerned about communist China overrunning the small unprotected country as they had done to Tibet earlier.

Palden's dreams were not to come true as a domestic coup and an Indian intervention put him under house arrest in 1975 and he was deposed, abolishing the 333 year old monarchy and declaring the King a commoner. It was at this time too that that Gyalmo (Queen) Hope Cooke left him and returned to the U.S. with their two children, Palden and Hope Leezum. On May 16, 1975, Sikkim was made the 22nd state of India.

Although we had started corresponding after our radio contact, between 1973 and 1978 none of my letters were received by Palden and he later told me his correspondence was confiscated by the Indian government. Since he had used his Amateur Radio station to tell the world about Sikkim being "unconstitutionally and illegally annexed by India", the Indian government took away his Collins S-line, never to return it to him.

In 1976, by a special act of Congress, Hope Cooke was granted permanent resident status in the U.S. This was the first step toward restoring the U.S. citizenship that she renounced to become the Gyalmo of Sikkim.

In a letter to me during February 1978, Palden states the news media is controlled by the Indian government and he had used his Collins equipment to "flash the news to the outside world of our unfortunate predicament. I am still under political restrictions on my movement and contact with people. I hope this will be removed sometime and I will be on the air again and I hope to contact you."

A letter in July, 1978 brings another misfortune! "A tragedy befell the family when I lost my eldest son, Tenzing, in an auto accident on the 11th of March. He was a fine young man and in his death I have lost a source of strength and the country a hope for the future. I am happy that New Delhi has just given me permission to travel abroad after giving my statement to the Prime Minister. I look forward to seeing my family in the States who I have not met for nearly five years."

October, 1990

Palden did visit his children in New York that year but his estranged wife obtained a legal separation and in 1980 an uncontested divorce. She did allow the 2 children, Palden and Hope Leezum, to visit Sikkim that summer. Palden writes: "It was great to see them after an absence of six years from home in their most formative years rediscovering the country, culture, language, and friends. I hope that they will come back to Sikkim next summer.....I have not got my rig back and so I am still off the air. I hope I will get my rig back one of these days when we will meet again on the air."

Finally on January 29, 1982 I found an article on the newspaper's obituary page captioned: "Deposed King of Sikkim Dies of Cancer! New York—The Deposed King of Sikkim, who captured the world's imagination with his fairy-tale wedding to New York socialite Hope Cooke but then was forced from his birthright throne, died Friday night at Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center of complications following surgery. He was 58."

Crown Prince, Amateur Radio operator, husband, father, king, everything a person would want to be! He lost his country, his dreams for it's future, his wife and children, his eldest son, and his life.

The disturbing part of this story is that I never had the opportunity to meet Palden in person. He was dying of cancer in New York and I had no knowledge of it. I am truly sorry that I never had the chance to meet this great man.

AC3PT SK.

RG 8 A/U Coaxial Cable Sale!

A limited amount of high quality foam core RG 8 A/U is now on sale.

Local radio stores sell a poorer grade RG 8/U for 42¢ per linear foot.

This coax is brand new, with 96% shielding.

Here's your chance to save money and improve performance.

Price: 500 foot roll, \$160. (32¢ foot)
100 foot lengths, 35¢ foot
Odd lengths 37¢ foot

You can call and order ahead or buy it at the next meeting.

730-2584 weekdays 8-4

N connectors for RG 8 \$5.00 each

LOSS IN db PER 100 FEET

TYPE	IMPEDANCE	3.5	7	14	21	28	50
RG 8/U	52 ohms	0.3	0.45	0.66	0.83	0.98	1.35
RG 8 A/U	52 ohms	0.25	0.36	0.53	0.67	0.80	1.1

For Sale

Swan Mark 6b 2kw 6 meter amp, new tubes \$550. ICOM IC-765 with both 250 hz cw filters, Heil boom-mic headset with dx and ragchew elements, SM-10 graphic equalizer mic, \$1800. Ten-tec 425 titan amp \$1700. Kenwood TM-3530 NEW \$300. Icom IC-47A like-new (used 3 times) \$300. Contact Frank 569-0314

Qty 3 KLM 2M-16lhx 2 meter yagis, 16 elements 28 foot boom. \$75/each. One 5-element 6-meter yagi on a 16-foot heavy-duty boom \$25. One 5-element 2-meter yagi on a 6-foot boom, put it on the air in January and it's yours. Fred, N1DPM, 786-7943.

2 meter 214B Junior Boomer, as new, \$50; Stacking harness for bommers, \$20; Cushcraft 11 element 2 meter beam, \$15. 6 element, 6 meter beam, \$25; Apple II+ computer, 64K, disk drive, software, \$200; Apple Scribe Printer, \$100; Amdek color monitor, 20 inch, \$100. Jeff Duquette, K1BE. 786-7856 evenings or weekends, (413) 730-2584 weekdays.

Hewlett Packard 609E 10-480MHz signal generator, very good condition \$175. 615B SWR meter \$25. 342A noise figure meter \$50. AIL 74 noise figure meter with HP 349A optional 200 MHz to 4 GHz noise source \$95. Tektronix 531 oscilloscope, 20 MHz with dual-trace and high sensitivity plus Tek scope cart \$60. Steve Powlishe, K1FO. Home (203) 421-4836, work (203) 659-6038.

1991 Callbooks Will Be Available

We will once again be selling U.S. and DX callbooks to club members at a discounted price. Orders will be taken at the October and November meetings for delivery in December. Prices will be announced at the October meeting and in next month's Zero Beat. You will be able to save a few bucks by buying your callbook through the club, so come prepared to place your order if you are interested in a 1991 callbook!

Next Meeting, October 5th

October's speaker will be Bill Olson, W3HQT/1 of Troy, Maine. Bill holds a BSEE from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. He is a former Mt. Airy VHF Society (Pack-Rats) president and an avid VHF/UHF/SHF enthisoast. After working as a product and applications engineer for Thomson CSF Microwave Semiconductors Division he started his own small "ham" company. Downeast Microwave. If you always wanted to know what "high tech" project you could build with a soldering iron, diagonal cutters, needlenose pliers, and a screwdriver, Bill's talk on no-tune up transverters for 2 meters to 903, 1296, 2304, and 3456 Mhz ought to spark your interest. This is a very non-technical talk so don't get scared by the topic. Bill also has for us a pretty interesting slide show.

Results of Bylaw Change Vote

At the September meeting, a vote was taken to change the bylaws and add a position to the club officers called Publication Editor. Some issues were brought up regarding the proper legal procedures and issues when changing the bylaws. The vote was tabled until the board of directors can obtain more information on the legal requirements involved with changing the bylaws.

Survey

Enclosed with this issue of Zero Beat you will find a membership survey. The Board of Directors and Club Officers would like you to take a few minutes to fill out this survey. You can bring it to the meeting, or you can mail it to the club P.O. Box 482, West Springfield, MA 01090-0482.

The survey helps us determine how to handle such events as the June Banquet, December Social, and November Auction. We can also use the survey to help determine how effective Zero Beat and the club bulletin board are in serving the membership.

Please feel free to write your comments anywhere on the survey form. We review each and every form and greatly appreciate any input you can give. Thank you.

Ten Rules For Selling Equipment by Ed White, W1NPL

1. Clean up the gear, making it presentable.
2. Permit a demonstration or trial period.
3. When stating a selling price, be firm about a figure. Be certain what you want.
4. If you wish to bargain, don't set a price.
5. If you're willing to ship it, be certain to state who pays for shipping costs.
6. Sometimes an all-around better transaction can be had by accepting a trade.
7. Under no circumstances accept "\$10.00 down, 50¢ a week"! Of a buyer needs cash, let them get a loan from a bank!
8. Should the equipment be defective, state it, and make sure the buyer knows it.
9. Don't be misleading, i.e. "it was only used by a grandmother to set her watch to WWV".
10. Remember that the vast majority of hams are anxious to please the buyer.

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Reprinted from Zero Beat, December, 1984.

VE's Needed for Exam Sessions

It's testing time again and I am looking for help. Tests again will be held on Wednesday evening at the Agawam High School, route 57, in room 17 at 7:00pm sharp. Please contact me by mail, phone (786-1463), or at the club meeting if you can work a session. 73, Jeanette Platanitis, WC1O.

Get Ready for the November Auction!

Have you done your fall cleaning yet? Well, you should, because the HCRA will be having its annual auction once again this coming November. Clean out your shack and make room for that new rig you've been waiting to buy! Is it too much of a hassle to sell your old equipment at Boxboro, Deerfield, or any other fleamarket? Well, it's real easy at the HCRA auction! Start thinking now about what you will bring!

RADIO MEMORIES

By

Bob Stephens W1MM

Early "Wireless" Interest Prior to WW1

One of my friends had an older brother who had a spark transmitter and a crystal detector receiver with which he could communicate around town. This greatly intrigued my friend and myself. We attempted to build smaller versions of this station and copied equipment as shown in Boys Life Magazine, without any real success other than learning the Morse Code.

WW1 Wireless Operation

While attending Hastings, Neb. High School in the fall of 1917, all male students were required to take military training in the Student Army Training Corps, and drill for one hour each morning before regular classes. Our Physics professor was one of the drill instructors, and informed his classes that anyone interested in Wireless would be assigned to a special Signal platoon, and thereby get out of the regular infantry drills. He had no trouble getting recruits and thus in place of drilling, our drill periods were taken up learning the code and code practice. The class also put together spark coil transmitters and carrying handles. As part of the morning drills, this "portable" equipment was carried a few blocks away and communications back to the base station in the Physics lab were made. This training continued up until the end of the war.

Post WW1 Wireless Operation

After lifting the ban on Amateur Radio, our Physics class instructor obtained a school radio club license with the call 90T. Along with most of the other fellows in the class I obtained an Amateur Radio Operators license. We spent many hours at 90T operating its 1/2 KW spark transmitter. In the mean time I put together a 1 inch spark coil transmitter and a crystal detector receiver, and soon obtained my license 9AVC. To the best of my knowledge and from notations on photographs of my station, this license was issued late in 1919. Late that year I put together a 1 KW spark transmitter, with home built rotary gap, and photographic glass plate with tin-foil and immersed in oil for the condenser, Thordarson transformer and pancake oscillation transformer. Antenna was a 4 wire flat top up about 45 feet. The receiver was a one tube Audion which had double filaments (one a spare) and homemade spider web coils.

The homemade rotary gap was very noisy and was soon replaced by an enclosed Benwood gap, and the receiver grew into a good sized one with detector and 2 stage amplifier. I have photos of this rig captioned "Bob" and His Bug", 9AVC, 1919-1920.

In the summer of 1922 the spark set was scrapped in favor of the new mode CW. A transmitter using a pair of 203s was

constructed and a new receiver using a "Reinartz" tuner and several stages of audio replaced the older receiver. Needless to say, this equipment ran rings around the older spark outfit. Now in place of only a few hundred miles, it was no problem working with either coasts. The rectifiers for the HV power supply we called "slop jar" rectifiers made up of aluminum and lead strips immersed solution of water and soda. These created quite a visual effect with a scintillating glow on the electrodes as the power supply was keyed. Voice communication was also possible by modulation of the carrier by means of absorption loop modulation with parallel carbon microphones in series with the loop and inductively coupled to the antenna coupler coil. 9AVC went QRT in 1924 when I went away to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Post College Radio Amateur Activity

Upon graduation, I was employed by the General Electric Co. in Schenectady, N.Y. as a test engineer and upon completion of the test program was employed as a regular Electrical Engineer. Shortly thereafter I was engaged to my present XYL who was also from Hastings, Neb. With a permanent place of residence, I again turned to Ham Radio and obtained a new call, W2AEW. I started off again with a home brew rig using a UV210 and a SW3 receiver, also home brewed. I guess none of my rigs ever stayed the same over a few months, as I was a dyed in the wool builder of both transmitters, receivers, and antennas.

In 1935 GE transferred me to Pittsfield, Mass. where I soon received call W1JLT. Later when the call W1AEW was vacated, I applied for it and held that call some time. After obtaining my Extra Class license, I applied for a two letter call and got W1MM in February of 1969.

In 1955 GE transferred me to their Holyoke, Mass. plant. I retired in 1967 after being with GE for nearly 40 years.

My main Ham Radio interests have been CW work, building all kinds of equipment and antennas, rag chewing, radio club work, DX and contests, some traffic work and a very little of phone and UHF activity.

Now that I am retired, I had hoped to have more time for Ham Radio, but find that I spend about the same amount of time at it, as I did when working a regular job. Other interests and hobbies seem to be taking up the slack that was available with the regular job chores ceased.

Robert N. Stevens, W1MM, Amateur Extra Class License
Ex 9AVC, W2AEW, W1JLT, and W1AEW
First Licensed Amateur Radio Operator 1919
W.A.S., W.A.C., W.A.Z., DXCC #321QCWA #3156 OOTC
#416
Re-printed from Zero Beat, February 1979

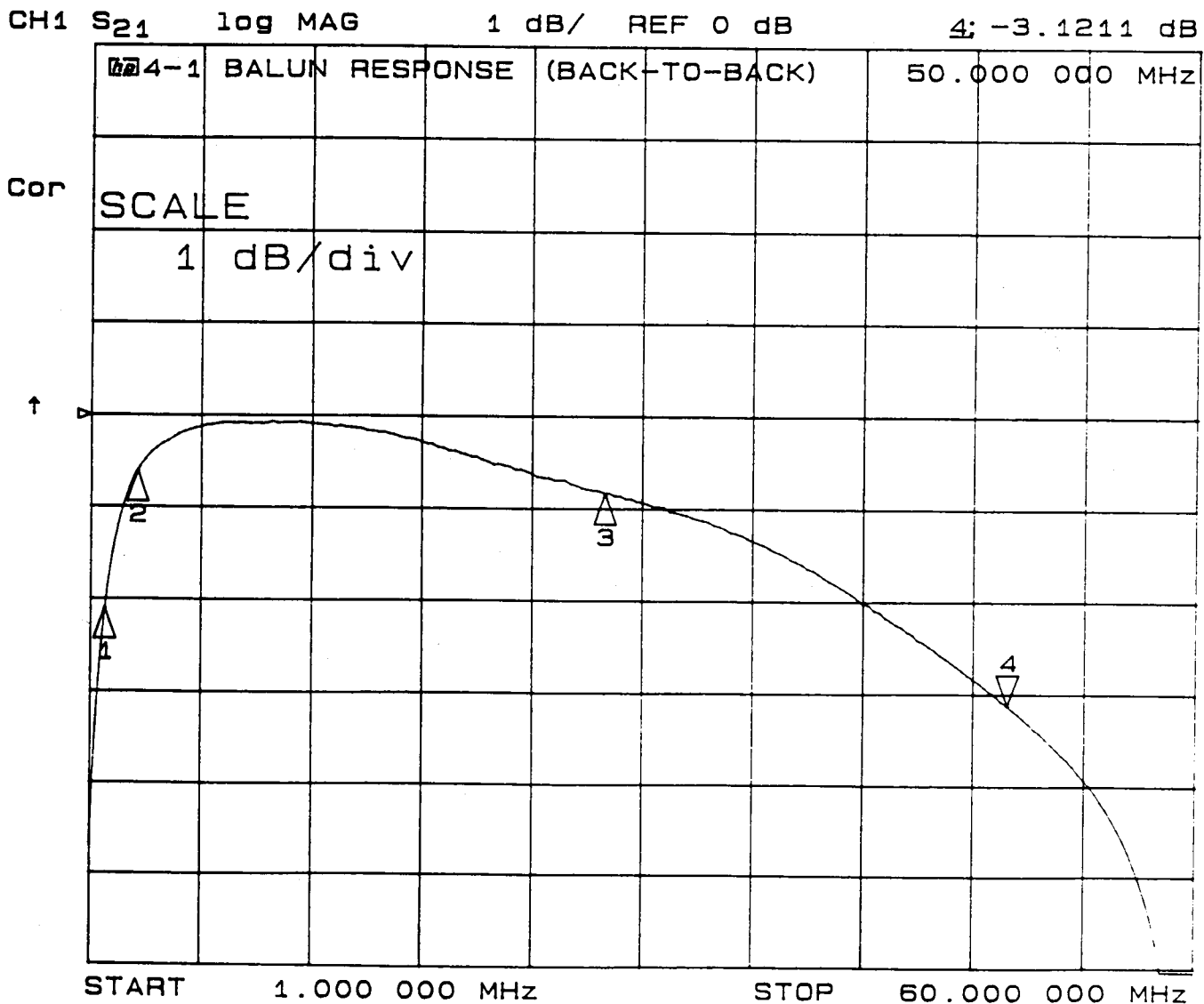
What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

by Fred Stefanik, N1DPM

This past summer I reworked the antenna array at my QTH. New antennas for 2, 220 and 432. With no need to replace my "trusty old" 5 element homebrew 6 meter yagi. A month later it promptly started to fall apart. The last director broke and fell. This prompted me to put up something different. After looking through my antenna collection I stumbled upon a KLM 7 element 20 foot boom L.P. yagi. This should do just fine. Let's see, I'll need to clean up the connections. This antenna's feed impedance is 200 ohms so a 4:1 ferrite balun is supplied with the antenna for a 50 ohm feed. This balun is rated for 3-60 MHz. Boy, that sure seems awfully broad to me! Wanting to get every last dB out

of my system, I decided to check it. In order to, I needed a second one to put back-to-back and I had another one left over from a yagi vs ice-storm confrontation (Obviously, the ice storm won!) With the help of a handy HP network analyzer, I was shocked! The response through both baluns was not at all flat. The graph's vertical divisions are 1dB each. The arrow on the left is the 0 dB reference. These don't look too bad between markers 2 and 3, less than 1 dB. Remember, there's two baluns so divide the watts by 2. Marker number 2 is at 3.5 MHz, the bottom of 80 meters and marker number 3 is at 28.5, the middle of 10 meters. Between these the loss is less than 1/2 of a dB. Well, these baluns look just fine for HF?? Not at 160 meters! About 1.1 dB of loss through a single balun, as shown by marker 1. Now 1 dB isn't much, but it's about 20 percent of your power and I'll

(continued on back page)



Calendar of Events

October	3	VE Session
	5	Meeting
	11	Board Meeting
November	2	Auction
	7	VE Session
	8	Board Meeting
December	5	VE Session
	7	Christmas Social
January	4	Meeting
	10	Board Meeting
	12-13	VHF Contest
February	1	Meeting
	6	VE Session
	7	Board Meeting
March	1	Meeting
	6	VE Session
	7	Board Meeting
April	5	Meeting
	11	Board Meeting
	27	Fleamarket
May	3	Meeting
	9	Board Meeting
June	5	VE Session
	7	June Banquet
	13	Board Meeting
	29-30	Field Day

Rutland Arrays highest performance yagis available! 10m: RA5-28, 5 elements, 8dBd gain. 6m: RA4-50, 4 elements, 12' 4" 8.25dBd. RA7-50, 7 elements, 26' 6" 10.5dBd. 2m: RA8-2UWB, 8 elements, 11' 9" 13.5dBi gain. FO12-144, 12 elements, 17" 4" 12.6dBd. FO15-144, 15 elements, 24' 8" 13.7dBd. 220: FO16-220, 16 elements, 17' 3" 14dBd. 70cm: FO11-440, 11 elements, 6' rear mount 12dBd. FO22-432, 22 elements, 14' 15.8dBd. FO25-432, 25 elements, 17' 3" 16.5dBd. FO33-432, 33 elements, 24' 3" 17.8dBd. We also have stacking frames and power dividers. Call or write for our catalog. 1703 Warren Street, New Cumberland, PA, 17070. (717) 774-8298, 7:00-10:00pm EST.

Receive Only	Freq. Range (MHz)	N.F. (dB)	Gain (dB)	1 dB Comp. (dBm)	Device Type	Price
P28VD	28-30	<1.1	15	0	OGFET	\$29.95
P50VD	50-54	<1.3	15	0	OGFET	\$29.95
P50VDG	50-54	<0.5	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$79.95
P144VD	144-148	<1.5	15	0	OGFET	\$29.95
P144VDA	144-148	<1.0	15	0	OGFET	\$37.95
P144VDG	144-148	<0.5	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$79.95
P220VD	220-225	<1.8	15	0	OGFET	\$29.95
P220VDA	220-225	<1.2	15	0	OGFET	\$32.95
P220VDG	220-225	<0.5	20	+12	GaAsFET	\$79.95
P432VD	420-450	<1.8	15	-20	Bipolar	\$32.95
P432VDA	420-450	<1.1	17	-20	Bipolar	\$49.95
P432VDG	420-450	<0.5	16	+12	GaAsFET	\$79.95
Inline (if switched)						
SP28VD	28-30	<1.2	15	0	OGFET	\$59.95
SP50VD	50-54	<1.4	15	0	OGFET	\$59.95
SP50VDG	50-54	<0.55	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95
SP144VD	144-148	<1.6	15	0	OGFET	\$59.95
SP144VDA	144-148	<1.1	15	0	OGFET	\$67.95
SP144VDG	144-148	<0.55	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95
SP220VD	220-225	<1.9	15	0	OGFET	\$59.95
SP220VDA	220-225	<1.3	15	0	OGFET	\$67.95
SP220VDG	220-225	<0.55	20	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95
SP432VD	420-450	<1.9	15	-20	Bipolar	\$62.95
SP432VDA	420-450	<1.2	17	-20	Bipolar	\$79.95
SP432VDG	420-450	<0.55	16	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95

Every preamplifier is precision aligned on ARR's Hewlett Packard HP8070A/HP346A state-of-the-art noise figure meter. RX only preamplifiers are for receive applications only. Inline preamplifiers are if switched (for use with transceivers) and handle 25 watts transmitter power. Mount inline preamplifiers between transceiver and power amplifier for high power applications. Other amateur, commercial and special preamplifiers available in the 1-1000 MHz range. Please include \$2 shipping in U.S. and Canada. Connecticut residents add 7.75% sales tax. C.O.D. orders add \$2. Air mail to foreign countries add 10%. Order your ARR Rx only or inline preamplifier today and start hearing like never before!

Advanced Receiver Research

Box 1242 • Burlington, CT 06013 • 203 582-9409



We would like to apologize to Tom Rutland, K3IPW. In last month's Zero Beat, his advertisement was barely readable at best. This was our first attempt at placing ads in Zero Beat, and our method for preparing Tom's ad did not work too well. As you can see by this month's ads, the situation has been corrected. So give a look at his fine products for your next antenna project!

LOOP YAGIS: 902 Mhz 33 element \$89 kit, \$109 assembled and tested. 1296 Mhz 45 element \$89 kit, \$109 assembled and tested. 1296 55 element "Super Looper" \$99 kit, \$124 assembled and tested. 2304 Mhz 45 element \$75 kit, \$89 assembled and tested. Also available: element and hardware kits for above. 2 and 4 w power dividers. Discount on complete arrays. Solid state limit power amps, 13vDC: 1296 - 8W in, 35W out \$315, 1W in 20W out \$265, 4W in 70W out \$695. GaAsFET preamps: 902 Mhz .8dB \$90, 1296 .8dB NF \$90, 2304 Mhz 1dB max NF \$140. SHF System no-tune transverter kits, w/144 Mhz IF now available for 903 thru 3456. Write or call for complete catalog. DOWN EAST MICR WAVE, Bill Olson, W3HQT, Box 2301, RR-1, Troy Maine 04907. For information and orders telephone (207) 948-3741.

(continued from page 6)

bet that your 1.5kw amp at 160 will sure heat it up! This converts 300 watts up in heat (or smoke). Anyway, back to my original goal, 6 meters. Eeegads 1.6dB per balun. This is unacceptable. Not only will it eat up 500 of my 1500 watts, it's going to raise my receiver system noise figure by 1.6dB. Now, how to correct this. Get out the old ARRL handbook... Here it is. A half wave,. 4:1 coax balun. Let's see, 1/2 wave at 50 MHz, 492/50 = 9.84 feet. Times 12 = 118 inches. This is in free space. Now, for polyethelyne diaelectric RG11U, the velocity factor is 66 percent so 118 times .66 is 78 inches. Let's try this. RG11 has a loss factor of 1.3dB per 100 feet at 50 MHz so for 78 inches the loss would be .085dB! That's much better! With this combination the KLM antenna on 6 meters works just fine, 1470 of my 1500 watts are now effective and the receiver is much quieter. So before just "slapping up" your antenna, no matter what band, check it out because what you don't know can hurt you!

VE Exams

Exams are sponsored by the HCRA on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM *sharp* at the Agawam High School. VE's are also needed. If you are interested in taking an exam or helping give exams, please contact Jeanette WC1O at 786-1463.

Next VE exam will be October 3rd at the Agawam High School.

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

Local Nets

HCRA 10 Meter Net	Thursday 9:00 PM 28.650
Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net	Daily 9:30 PM 146.28/88
80 Meter Ragchew Net	Tuesday 8:00 PM 3.709 Mhz
WMPN	Daily 6:00 PM 3.937
WMSN	Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 PM 3.713
WMN	Daily 7:00 PM 3.562
WMTN	Monday-Friday 1:00 PM 146.31/91
CPN	Monday-Saturday 6:00 PM 3.965
	Sunday 10:00 AM 3.965
Mt. Tom Information Net	Wednesday 7:30 PM 146.34/94
Mt. Tom Swap Net	Follows Mt. Tom Information Net
Mt. Tom Emergency Net	Sunday 8:45 AM 146.34/94
WMA Tfc Net Cycle 3	Tue, Wed, Thu 4:00 PM 146.34/94
RASON	Daily 9:00 PM 146.13/73
WESCON	Daily 8:30 PM 147.78/18
CN	Daily 7:00 & 10:00 PM 3.640
CSN	Monday-Friday 7:30 PM 3.720
BEARS Traffic Net	Daily 9:15 PM 145.11(-)

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

P O Box 482

West Springfield MA 01090-0482

Editor: Bob Lafleur, NQ1C

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Correction Requested

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P A I D
Springfield MA
Permit No. 1065

10/90 AC1T

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HCRA Membership Survey

The club is attempting to learn more about its members and their interests in order to better serve the needs of the club. Please help us by answering the following questions as best you can, and leaving this survey with us at the next club meeting. You can also mail the survey to the club P.O. Box if you prefer. Thank you for your help.

General Information

How old are you? _____

What class license do you have? None Novice Technician General Advanced Extra

Which of the following club officers/board of directors do you know?

Stan Hilinski, KA1ZE

Charlie Dunlap, K1II

Scott Cohen, KA1QAS

Jim Sebolt, N1DUY

Larry Lemoine, N1EPE

Fred Stefanik, N1DPM

Greg Stoddard, N1AEH

Steve Nelson, WA1EYF

Frank Potts, NC1I

Cliff Junkins, W1UWX

Bob Cohen, K1CPJ

(optional) Your call? _____ Your name? _____

November Auction

Do you make it a point to attend the November auction meeting? Yes Usually No

Have you ever bought anything at a club auction? Yes No

Have you ever sold anything at a club auction? Yes No

Would you like the club to continue to have the club auction? Yes No

Club Fleamarket

Did you attend the HCRA Fleamarket last year? Yes No

Did you like the location of the fleamarket? Yes No

Did you take a VE exam at the club fleamarket? Yes No

December Christmas Social

Do you make it a point to attend the December Christmas Social? Yes Usually No

Would you prefer a planned meeting instead of the social meeting? Yes No

June Banquet

Do you make it a point to attend the June Banquet? Yes Usually No

Which of the following most appeals to you for the June meeting?

Planned speaker Banquet at church Meeting at restaurant Weekend BBQ

Did you think last year's banquet was better than previous years? Yes No Don't know

(Please turn the page over)

Club Packet Bulletin Board

Do you use the club packet bulletin board? Yes Occasionally No Don't Have Packet

If the bulletin board were available via landline modem on a Springfield number, would you use it? Yes No

If you use the club bulletin board, does it provide adequate service? Yes No

If no, why not? _____

Zero Beat

Do you read Zero Beat every month? Yes No

Do you find the information in Zero Beat interesting or useful? Yes On occasion No

What topics would you like to see covered in Zero Beat? _____

Do you get your Zero Beat on time? Always Most of the time Almost never

Meetings

How many meetings during a club year do you attend? All Most Only a few None

Why do you come to meetings? _____

What was your favorite meeting last year? _____

What was the worst meeting last year? _____

Should we have more time for "Mix & Mingle" at the meetings? Yes No Don't like

Would you like to see more demonstrations at meetings? Yes No Don't Like

Would you like to see more video tapes at meetings? Yes No Don't Like

What topics would you like to see covered at a meeting? _____

Your interests

Circle all the activities that you are active in. Underline those which you plan to investigate in the next year.

HF DXing

HF Ragchewing

HF Traffic Nets

HF SSTV

HF RTTY/AMTOR

HF Packet

HF Contesting

Homebrewing

VHF Ragchewing

VHF RTTY/Packet

VHF/UHF Contesting

ATV

EME (Moonbounce)

VHF Traffic Nets

Computer Programming

Satellites

Other _____