



The Zero Beat

Volume 30 Issue 6

February 1995

HPARC RUNS INTERFERENCE IN FEB!

IS "W8QRM" SPOKEN FOR?

President's QRM

First of all, I'd like to apologize for missing the meeting in January, but a medical problem popped up and I needed to seek a doctors attention. I am okay, and you will all have to put up with me at the next general membership meeting, which is scheduled for February 8th. The meeting will begin at 7:30 and it should be a very full evening. The program will be presented by Phil KB8THN, who works for the Chrysler Corporation. The subject is "RFI and Your Automobile".

Phil will tell us how auto manufacturers do RF testing on their products and how to deal with RF problem related to mobile Amateur Radio. I think that this will be a interesting program...maybe we can get some hints on how to wire your mobile rigs. The board of Directors will also present the 1995 budget to the membership for approval. If you have signed up for one of the club hotel rooms at Dayton this year, your money is due by the March meeting. If you can't come up with the cash by then, your room will be reassigned to another HPARC member on a first come, first served basis.

Congratulations to Verline KI8V, who was given Life Membership in the Hazel Park ARC in recognition for her service to HPARC as the club call Trustee. Thanks go out to our Treasurer Dave K8TRF for the hard work that he has put into the club budget. Dave spent many hours on this project and deserves a pat on the back from us all for his efforts.

Thumbs up to Marty KB8RSH and Dave KB8RXX for becoming the 1995 field day co-chairs for the event. The required permits have been filed with the school board and I have been working closely with Marty to help make Field Day '95 a success. Your participation is all that is needed to insure a great time. You'll find some Field Day words of wisdom from Marty and Dave elsewhere in this issue of the Zero beat.

FCC Succumbs to Vanity!

The FCC has announced its intention to implement a vanity call sign program, and also to resume the issuance of club and military recreation station licenses. In a January 24 news release, the Commission released a general outline of the new program.

Amateurs will be eligible to apply for a call sign of their choice in four "gates." The first group eligible to apply will be previous holders of a call sign or the close relative of a previous holder of an amateur call sign who is deceased. The second group will be Amateur Extra Class licensees, then Advanced, then all others. The FCC will announce the opening of each "gate" by public notice.

The FCC said that the first gate will open as soon as a new application form, FCC Form 610-V, is available and the Commission's licensing facility is prepared to begin processing the applications -- no sooner than April, according to FCC staff.

Applications for club station licenses will be accepted as soon as the FCC's Report and Order on this matter is released. Club station call signs will be issued systematically, unless under the fourth "gate" the trustee of an existing club station applies for the call sign of a deceased member as a vanity call sign for the club.

The fee for the use of vanity call signs will be 7 dollar(s) per year, or 70 for dollar(s) a ten-year license term, according to Wireless Telecommunication Bureau staff. However, on January 12, 1995, in a notice of proposed rule making, the FCC proposed a fee of 3 dollar(s) per year, for fiscal year 1995 (which began October 1, 1994). Amateurs will be able to list up to 25 call sign choices, from any call area, FCC staff said. It is expected that it will be several weeks before the new form 610-V is approved.

Steps to Antenna Success

by James Bunting, Esq. - KE8QT

Antennas have always fascinated me, and I spend a fair amount of time reading about them and talking to fellow amateurs about them. I have even put together a few simple dipoles for vacation use which worked very well. My HF antennas at home are very modest - a ground-mounted vertical and a G5RV - but they treat me well enough, and I have no complaints about them.

In the January, 1995 issue of WorldRadio, Kurt Sterba's column talked about loading up an aluminum ladder for the 20-meter band. I am a fan of Kurt's, and I read this particular article with great interest. Our pal Arlan, our beloved ZeroBeat editor, had recently asked me to write an article for the newsletter, and until I read Kurt's column, I was stumped. But now, friends, I had a germ of an idea for an article. Could I load up an aluminum ladder just like Kurt did?

I had all the necessary components: 6-foot aluminum step ladder, 50-ohm coax, budwig connector and copper wire. So, on the cold afternoon of January 2, with about 15 minutes of minimal effort, I was on the air with a ground-mounted step ladder.

Coax was run from my tuner, out the vent through the basement window near my shack. The budwig connector was taped to a leg of the ladder at the height of the second rung, and I coiled about 18 inches of copper wire from one end of the connector around the leg of the ladder. From the other end of the connector, I grounded the antenna to my chain link fence with an 18 inch length of copper wire.

My favorite band is 40-meters, and to my delight, the antenna had a very favorable untuned SWR of 2:1 on that band. It tuned to 1.5:1. First contact was with Grand Rapids on SSB with a 5-9 signal report. Next three contacts were to Indiana, Illinois and London, Ontario, all on CW, with reports ranging from 559 to 589. These were certainly not DX contacts, but given the time of day - around 5 P.M. - about the distance you might expect on the 40-meter band.

Incidentally, this antenna was quieter than my vertical, but not as quiet as my G5RV. I listened on 20-meters, but did not attempt any contacts there or on any other band. Night approached and I wanted to get the antenna taken down before other residents of my house came home and asked questions. Making antennas out of

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ladders is not something that is easily explained to a non-ham.

Anyway, I successfully field tested one of Kurt Sterba's many ideas, and share this success with you because I can see where a step ladder antenna would be very useful in getting around apartment, condo, mobile home or campground restrictions and because it shows that almost any chunk of metal can be used as an antenna.

The Swap Hound

Sleazy fine print: Swap Hound listings are based on tosses of a wooden nickel, oil stains on our driveway, and hidden messages in "W1AW code practice broadcasts. Errors are guaranteed to creep in on a regular basis. Before wasting your gas and time, double check with a credible source.

SUN FEB 12 MANSFIELD, OH - Midwinter Hamfest & Computer Show. Richland County Fairgrounds. Admission - \$4. Tables - \$9. Call (419) 589-7133 after 5pm for info. Talk-in 146.34.

SAT/SUN FEB 25/26 CINCINNATI, OH - Cincinnati ARRL '95 Amateur Radio Convention & Computer Show. Cincinnati Gardens Expo Center. Mfg Exhibits, Conferences, Dealers, Flea Market. Admission - \$6, Tables - \$55, Flea Market - \$22. (513) 531-1011 for info. Talk-in 144.77, 144.59, 222.46, 443.65.

SUN FEB 26 DEARBORN, MI - Livonia Amateur Radio Club Swap-N-Shop. Dearborn Civic Center. VE exams by appointment only. Admission \$5. Talk-in 145.350. Call (313) 261-5486 for info.

WED FEB 29 YAWNING MAW, IN - Greater Yawning Maw Hamfest & Dwarf Toss. Steven A. Harris Memorial Sewage Treatment Facility. Admission - by appointment only. Periodic Tables - \$17.83, Flea Market - whatever scratch you have on you. Talk-in - 7.093 Mhz (straight key) 14.057Mhz (iambic).

SAT MAR 18 MARSHALL, MI - Michigan Crossroads Hamfest. Marshal High School. Tables - \$4 per 4 ft table. Admission - \$3 advanced, \$4 at door. (616) 979-3433 for info. Talk-in 146.66 & 146.52.

SUN MAR 19 MAUMEE, OH - Toledo Mobile Radio Association. TMRA Hamfest. Lucas County Recreation Center. Tables - \$15-\$25. Admission - \$4 advanced, \$5 at door. (419) 259-5473. Talk-in 147.87.

SUN APR 9 GROSSE POINTE, MI - Southeast Michigan ARA Swap&Shop. Grosse Pointe North High School. Tables - \$10. Trunk Sale - \$5. Admission - \$3 advanced, \$4 at door. VE Testing. Talk-in on 146.74. Call (313) 886-6354 for more info.

Unclassifieds:

Complete HF Station For Sale

ICOM IC-735 (mint), MLA-2500B 2KW Linear Amplifier 160m-10m (great condition). MFJ Versa Tuner 5, Oak Bay T.I. Filter, Butternut HF5V Antenna 160m-10m. All cables included. \$1750 - Will consider separating some items.

Call Paul - N8LRL (810) 644-7551

Think Spring!!! Think Field Day!!!

Well, it's time to think Spring again. In fact, it's time to think Field Day! Dave KB8RXK and I have agreed to co-chair the event. This is just the first of many requests we will be making for individuals to step forward and participate. I feel that it is time for some of the new hams in HPARC to step forward, lend a hand, and learn some new things amateur radio in the process. There's no need to be afraid. There will be plenty of other amateurs there to lend encouragement and Elmer you if necessary. Why not stand up and take your place as part of this fine Ham tradition? It is not all that hard, and requires just a little advance preparation. Besides at what other time of the year are you afforded all of privileges of an Extra class license holder? You are at the Field Day site!

I attended another clubs Field Day last year. Boy, was it a BIG production! They ran 16A and had a great time doing it. Most of the stations were manned by Hams who have been around for a while, but I had a great time logging on the 40 meter CW station for 18 of the 24 hours of the event. At the onset of Field Day '94 I was a Ham who had just passed his 5 WPM exam. After a few hours of logging I had heard enough code that I could lend an ear when the QRM level went ballistic. (many ears are better than a few.) I will still look for the old timers to attend and help the others, but would like to see all of our new members join in the fun.

There are many positions available and volunteers are welcome. Neither Dave nor I want to send the Field Day Police to your door to enlist your help, so please volunteer to do something this year with your club. Set some time during the last weekend of June and come join us at the Hazelwood property in Holly, Michigan.

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As of today, the following positions are open:

1. Food Chair (guess who gets first crack at breakfast)
2. Technician Station Chair (6 meters and up)
3. 10 meter chair (SSB and/or CW)
4. 15 meter chair (SSB and/or CW)
5. 20 meter chair (SSB and/or CW)
6. 40 meter chair (SSB and/or CW)
7. 80 meter chair (SSB and/or CW)

There are many aspects of this hobby that come into play during Field Day. If someone would like to try satellite communications, solar power, or anything else within the rules of the event, please step forward. What better way to learn about something new or to share your knowledge about a different facet of this great hobby. Some stations shut down for the night because the band propagation closes down. Others need to be manned continuously in shifts.

Having lots of fun, improving your operating skills and the camaraderie of your fellow hams is what this is all about. It also prepares us for putting a station on the air for use in the event of an emergency.

If there are any questions or you would like to ask, or a position you want to volunteer for, you can generally catch me on the DART during the day, on packet at N8EQD on 144.97 or at KB8RSH-I on 144.97. Dave can usually be found on the DART during early morning drive time. Both Dave and I are usually at the club meetings as well. If all else fails, my beeper number is (810)-908-4231. Just punch in your telephone number at the tone. Don't wait until the last minute.

Volunteer!!! Being an active member of HPARC will make ham radio even more fun than it is for you now.

73 de KB8RSH/Marty

Lost Your Way? Help Out of the Woods is Available!

Were you caught holding the short end of a vertical, the last time you wanted to go on a fox hunt? Why not pick up a handy radio direction finder kit to add to your arsenal of radio junk. Pass a crisp 20 to Chris N8MLM at the next meeting for a plastic bag full of parts and semi-comprehensible instructions. Supplies are limited. See Paul AA8OZ for details on the next fox hunt.

Minutes Of 1/11/95 HPARC Meeting

by **KE8QT - HPARC Minister of Disinformation**

Meeting commenced at 7:35 P.M. with welcome and introductions. Meeting conducted by First VP Phil, AA8KR in the absence of beloved President Mike, WD8S. Treasurer's report by Dave, K8TRF. Motion to accept by KB8RSH; seconded by N8GMA. Passed. Motion by KA8PHP to accept minutes of December meeting as published in ZeroBeat. Seconded by KB8RSH. Passed.

Motion to make Verline, KI8V, a life member of HPARC in recognition of her long-standing commitment to be trustee of the W8JXU club call. Passed. 25 DF kits have arrived. N8MLM, Chris, to disperse kits and collect money at February meeting. Explanation of "super prize" rules. Request for Field Day chairperson. Request for Net Control stations for the Monday night CW nets. Request to give QSL cards to Christine, N8WIQ, for the club scrap book. Reminder of Kids' net, Sundays, 7 P.M. on the DART. Reminder of VE testing on 1/26.

Notice that Novice classes will commence 2/9. Broke for refreshments 8 P.M.; Resumed 8:25 P.M. Program - Video on basics of Packet Radio. Welcome and recognition of new members. Club drawing won by Tony, KB8RCB. Meeting adjourned 9:00 P.M.

License/Upgrade Status Available on FCC's Dime!

Effective December 20, 1994, prospective licensees and upgraders can call the FCC at 1-800-322-1117 to learn whether or not their pending FCC Form 610 license application has been processed, and if a new license has been granted.

If a new license has been granted, the person can begin immediate on-the-air operation (using their FCC-issued call sign) with the privileges of the new license as indicated by the FCC (during the telephone inquiry). The hardcopy (printed) license would follow shortly after the license grant is indicated in the FCC Amateur Service data base.

The Zero Beat Correspondence?

[Editor's Note: The following letter was received by your editor on January 31, 1995 via US Snail in an envelope with a Detroit postmark and no return address. Anyone supplying information leading to the apprehension of the source of this epistle will be rewarded with a lifetime supply of slightly used coax-seal].

ARRL - UNOFFICIAL OBSERVER
ALTERNATOR WHINE DIVISION

Mr. Arlan Levitan
c/o HPARC - Zero Beat

Dear Mr. Levitan,

Many amateurs believe the duties of the official observers are to merely listen to the amateur bands for infractions of language rules and out of band/allocation operation. This is surely part of what we do, but we also listen for noxious and obnoxious noises emitted by improperly installed transmitting equipment.

To be truthful, Mr. Levitan, the alternator whine emitted by your 2-meter radio is perhaps one of the most odious we have ever heard, even more odious than that of WA8E. He, of course, doesn't know any better, but we think you do, and we would like to suggest some helpful actions you can take to eliminate your spurious noises.

First of all, you could sell your car and your radio which would please any number of people, assuming you could find a buyer for either. Secondly, you could buy a few ferrite beads; if they don't work, which they probably won't, you could stick them where the sun don't shine and at least your howling would be more pleasing than that of your alternator. Thirdly, you could try a direct to the car battery hook-up which, although it might take a whole ten minutes out of your busy day, will probably work. Thousands of amateurs with a license class lesser than yours have done it with great success. Lastly, you could play a tape in the background of Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love" which would mask your alternator whine quite well.

Hopefully, in one of these suggestions will lie the solution. We wish you well.

Yours truly, W8INE, UOO-AWD

HPARC Outerware Earns Kudos From Armani!!!

According to Armani, "If I was a member of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club you can bet that I wouldn't be caught at a club function without my HPARC jacket and T-shirt". Well, if we had actually taken the time to call Arthur Armani, N8TBS of Bexley, Ohio, we're sure he would have said something like that. Frank K8DZT and Phil N8UUS, the clubs purveyors of haute couture, still have a few of those stylish HPARC fashion items in their inventories. See either of them at the meeting.

Upgrade!!! There's a VE Exam Soon in Your Area!

For further information, please contact the test session CONTACT PERSON at the telephone number provided. Although the test session information presented here does not indicate whether walk-ins are accepted or not, most test sessions do allow walk-ins.

Always contact the CONTACT PERSON at the telephone number provided so that the VE Team is aware that you be attending the test session.

EXAM LISTINGS - DEFINITION OF FIELDS

Test Date,VEC,City,,Contact Phone,Contact Person

The SECOND field in the following listing specifies the VEC which is coordinating this examination. This single-character designator denotes the VEC as defined below. An "A" (for example) indicates that this examination is coordinated by the ARRL/VEC.

For further information on any examinations listed, or if you do not find any examinations listed for your area, you may contact any of the coordinating VECs:

A = ARRL/VEC, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; (d) 203-666-1541. The 1995 test fee is \$5.90.

5 = W5YI-VEC, PO Box 565101, Dallas, TX 75356-5101; 817-461-6443. The 1995 test fee is \$5.90.

ARRL administered CW examinations are multiple choice format. W5YI CW tests are fill-in-the-blank question format. The exact wording of written examination questions will vary from VEC to VEC.

Michigan VE Exam Schedule

February 1995:

02/07/95,A,Oak Park,,810-642-3608,Jeff Albrecht, N8WRY
02/09/95,A,Flint,,810-257-5325,Don Spillman
02/11/95,A,Ann Arbor,,313-663-4625,Roger Place
02/11/95,A,Flint,,810-743-3980,Tom Sanders N8DYN
02/18/95,A,Flint,,810-634-6077,Bill Coale
02/18/95,A,Traverse City,616-946-5312,Chas Mellberg
02/26/95,A,Stevensville,,616-471-5869,Ken Simpson, KU8Y

March 1995:

03/04/95,5,Mt. Clemens,810-468-8345, Bill Chesney, N8CVC
03/09/95,A,Flint,,810-257-5325,Don Spillman
03/11/95,5,Dearborn,,313-676-6248,Motor City Radio Club
03/11/95,A,Flint,,810-743-3980,Tom Sanders N8DYN
03/11/95,A,Kalamazoo,,616-327-2529,Wray I Marshall
03/11/95,A,Marquette,,906-249-3837,Richard Schwenke
03/11/95,A,Roscommon,,517-275-4661,Richard L Maki
03/18/95,A,Flint,,810-634-6077,Bill Coale
03/23/95,5,Hazel Park,810-399-7970, Mike, WD8S
03/26/95,A,Stevensville,,616-471-5869,Ken Simpson, KU8Y

April 1995:

04/01/95,5,Mt. Clemens,810-468-8345, Bill Chesney, N8CVC
04/04/95,5,Iron Mountain,,906-246-3641,F D Le Quia
04/04/95,A,Oak Park,,810-642-3608,Jeff Albrecht, N8WRY
04/08/95,5,Ann Arbor,,313-663-4625,Roger Place,W8ZRF
04/08/95,A,Houghton,,906-337-2542,George R Thurner
04/13/95,A,Flint,,810-257-5325,Don Spillman
04/15/95,A,Flint,,810-634-6077,Bill Coale
04/18/95,A,Flint,,810-743-3980,Tom Sanders N8DYN
04/23/95,A,Stevensville,,616-471-5869,Ken Simpson, KU8Y
04/26/95,A,Saint Joseph,,616-422-2296,Larry Schrader
04/26/95,5,Trenton, 313-676-6248,Motor City Radio Club

May 1995:

05/06/95,5,Iron Mountain,,906-246-3641,F D Le Quia
05/11/95,A,Flint,,810-257-5325,Don Spillman
05/13/95,A,Flint,,810-743-3980,Tom Sanders N8DYN
05/25/95,5,Hazel Park,810-399-7970, Mike, WD8S

Send your corrections/additions/insults to The Editor, Zero Beat, Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club, POB 368, Hazel Park, Michigan 48030.

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

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Director

KF8KS - Steve Harris
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Troy, Mich. 48098
(810) 689-4048

Club Call Trustee

KI8V - Verline Ferris
Hazel Park, Mich. 48030

Board of Directors Meeting Schedule:

Feb. 27, 1995

April 3, 1995

May 1, 1995

June 5, 1995

HPARC Chairpersons

Membership Chairman & Badges AA8KR Phil

VE Team Co-Chairs - WD8S Mike N8SWQ Bill

Novice Classes - N8UUF, KA8NDY, WB8YRV

Zero Beat Editor - KB8QLV/AA Arlan

Mailing Crew - KA8NCH Ed,

WB8OSZ Gene, KB8NIH Bill

DART Board of Directors- WD8S, NR8D,
WD8JWM, KA8PHP, KB8QLV

Repeater Trustees - 2m N8MLM 440 N8EQD

CW Net Managers - AA8JN Frank N8WYO Al

Kids Net Manager - KB8TVE Joe

Club Refreshments - K8DZT Frank

Club Tee Shirts - N8UUS Phil

Public Information Officers - AA8EG, WB8TIV

Club Equipment Custodians - KF8KS, WB8ATZ

County Liaison - KA8PEH Al

Dayton Hamvention Trip Chairman - WD8S Mike

Club Jackets - K8DZT Frank

1995 Field Day - Marty KB8RSH Dave KB8RXX

Rocking Chair Net Manager - WB8OSZ Gene

Club HF Awards Manager - KB8NKD Dick

Club VHF Awards Manager - KB8HSR Tim

ARRL Technical Coordinator - AA8EG Don

1995 Banquet Chariman - WB8JWM Barry

1995 Swap n Shop - N8TMQ Tom

Club Repeaters - DART (Detroit Area Repeater Team) Sponsor Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
2 Meters - 146.640 (-)
440 Mhz - 443.225 (+)

2 Meter HPARC Net- Sundays 9 p.m. 146.640-
DART

15 meter CW Novice Net 8 p.m. Mondays 21.125

15 meter CW Net 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays 21.125

Kids 2 meter Phone Sundays 7:00 p.m. 146.640-
DART

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
Post Office Box 368
Hazel Park, MI 48030

FIRST CLASS MAIL