



The Zero Beat

Volume 30 Issue 9

May 1995

HPARC ON THE MOVE IN MAY & JUNE!!

FOUL WEATHER CHICKENS OUT!

President's QRM

If you weren't at Dayton this year you missed a great time. The weather was great, and even those who didn't buy anything enjoyed the conference sessions and the company of the buddies and pals. Plans are all ready underway for next year. We are attempting to get more rooms and will enter the lottery for a flea market space in '96 so that HPARC members might have a spot to cool their dogs and park any boat anchors they acquire.

The May Membership Meeting will be held on May 10th at 7:30 p.m. at the Hoover elementary School in Hazel Park. The topic be Field Day... I will show a short video tape and we will have a question and answer session. Field Day is June 24th and 25th. This is a important part of Amateur Radio. Demonstrating our emergency communications capabilities is a key way to hold onto the frequency spectrum we still have, so make plans to come out and spend some time with the club.

Don't forget the HPARC Banquet on June 14th. Tickets will be available at the May meeting from Barry WD8JWM. Tom N8TMQ will be our during the Michigan QSO party. Tom's cabin is located in a small county of Arenac and the club call W8JXU should be a rare contact during the contest. If you want to join us see Tom or myself.

May is also election month. Many candidates were nominated during the April meeting, but nominations will still be open from the floor at the May meeting. Each nominee will a chance to speak briefly in their own behalf.

Ed KA8NCH is our liaison to the Oak Apple Run. Ed will have a sign up sheet for the event which is scheduled for June 3rd. Based on our past performance, the OAR staff has asked for more of us this year. Why not pitch in? It's a great way for the Club to get positive exposure and for you to have a lot of fun. See you all at the meeting.

73s and 88s from Mike WD8S.

Report From Dayton

As the sun shone brightly on Friday and Saturday at Hamvention '95, VHF amateur equipment was in short supply in the flea market area, and asking prices reflected that scarcity. HF equipment wasn't particularly plentiful either, although there seemed to be a lot more used ICOM rigs than others. The general rule for the Dayton '95 flea market was "if you see something you like, negotiate a price for it now". The half dozen items I made mental notes of as I leisurely cruised the aisles were all gone when I finally decided what I wanted and returned to make an offer.

Although prices outside may have been high, the competition inside Hara arena was fierce, resulting in some of the best deals on new gear that I've seen, even though the dollar/yen situation had been exerting upward pressure on the market for months. All of the big mail order firms were selling gear at rapid clip with the exception of AES, who inexplicably decided not to bring anything to sell. Their tiny booth was only taking applications for AES credit cards...go figure!!!

There were plenty of freebies... Yaesu was swamped with hams grabbing their snappy blue hats, smiling at the ARRL booth landed you a nice tie-tac, and Kenwood had a variety of giveaway items including bumper stickers, logbooks, maps and enameled lapel pins.

The hottest new piece of hardware that could actually be purchased at the show was Standard's new C508a mini dual-band 2M/4400 HT which can literally hide in a shirt pocket. At 280mw of output from two AA alkaline cells it's no powerhouse, but the \$250 show price and the units wide receive capability saw vendor supplies exhausted by Sunday morning.

ICOM's new IC-706 mobile rig wasn't available for purchase but was making big waves with HF plus 6 and 2 meters. It's a small package but expect a big price tag - probably around \$1400 by the time it's type accepted by the FCC this summer.

73 de Arlan KG8OW

HPARC Banquet Boffo in 'Burbs - Be There!!!

The Annual Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club Banquet will be held at the Stephenson Haus, 25000 North Chrysler Drive, in Hazel Park Michigan on Wednesday, June 14, 1995 at 6:30 p.m. Dinner (\$13 per person) begins at 7:00 p.m., with a Norm Cash bar beforehand (chewing tobacco optional). Rumor has it that this years door prizes are even better than '94s! See the man in the funny hat, Barry WD8JWM, at the May meeting for your tickets or give him a call (810) 661-6965. Remember, since there are no general membership meetings in the months of June, July and August. The HPARC Banquet is your last chance to toast the buddies and pals at an indoor club function until the summer is over. See you there!!!!

The Swap Hound

Sleazy fine print: Swap Hound listings are based on whatever event listings your editor can scam from other newsletters, spontaneous hallucinations and post sixties flashbacks. Errors are guaranteed to creep in on a regular basis. Before wasting your gas and time, double check with a credible source.

SAT MAY 20 CADILLAC, MI - Wixonkee Hamfest & Swap. Cadillac Middle School. Call Dan KE8KU (616) 775-0998 for more info. Talk-in on 146.98(-).

SUN MAY 21 HOLLY, MI - Holly Hamfest & Computer Show - Fenton ARA. Ben Sherman Middle School. Admission - \$4 adults, \$1 Students. VE Testing. Talk-in 146.78 & 442.25. For more info call Marty at (800) 429-3492.

SUN JUN 4 CHELSEA, MI - Chelsea ARC Hamfest Chelsea, MI. Call or write Gary Widmayer, N8AYY
PO Box 325, Manchester, MI 48158, 313-428-9398 for more info.

SAT JUN 17 - MIDLAND, MI - Midland Hamfest. VE Sessions. Tickets - \$3 in advance, \$4 at gate For more info call Bill Storr, N8LTR (517) 832-3053.

SUN JUN 18 MONROE, MI - Monroe County Radio Communications Association HamFest. Monroe County Fairgrounds. Talk-in 146.12/146.72. Tickets - \$4 in advance, \$5 at gate. For more info call or write Fred Lux, WD8ITZ
5742 Parkside Dr., Monroe, MI 48161 313-243-1053

SUN JUL 9 JACKSON, MI - Jackson HamFest & Computer Show - Cascades ARS - Jackson County Fairgrounds. Tickets - \$3.50 in advance, \$5 at gate Talk-in 146.88. Call or write

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Terry Osborn, KD8B, 508 Dalton Rd., Jackson, MI 49201, 517-784-2398 for more info.

SUN JUL 30 PORT HURON, MI - Eastern Michigan ARC Swap'nShop. Call or write Henry Kohl, K8DD
1640 Henry St., Port Huron, MI 48060. 810-982-7088 for more info.

SUN AUG 27 FOWLERVILLE, MI - Livingston ARC Hamfest. Call or write Ray Melosh, N8CPO
4349 East Allen Rd., Howell, MI 48843, 517-546-9209 for more info.

SAT SEP 16, GRAND RAPIDS, MI - Grand Rapids ARA Swap'nShop. For more info call or write Jeff Belknap, N8RWS,
454 Harp St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49548, 616-531-7899.

SUN SEP 17, MT. CLEMENS, MI - L'Anse Creuse ARC Swap'nShop. For more info call or write Mark Castiglione,
N8REZ, 26279 Fairwood St., Chesterfield, MI 48051-3031, 810-949-2508.

Volunteers Still Needed - Oak Apple Run - 6/3/95

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club members and their ham radio friends are needed to participate as Amateur Radio Public Service Corps volunteers for the 18th Oak Apple Run as Amateur Radio operators. This represents the Clubs fifth consecutive year of Community Service to the popular footrace. Every HPARC member who showed up last year was put to good use, and race officials have specifically asked for more of us this year.

The pre-race meeting will be held on Friday June 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Royal Oak, 320 West 7th St., [between Washington Ave. and Lafayette Street], Royal Oak, Michigan. Volunteers must attend this meeting to receive instructions and assignments. A sign-up sheet will be available at the May HPARC meeting. Any questions, please call Mike WD8S 399-7970 or Mike N8EQD 549-5605

W8ACB - Silent Key

It is with great sadness that HPARC acknowledges that W8ACB, Ray Jelinek, became a silent key last month. Ray was not of member of HPARC, but he was a friend to many of us. He was a regular check-in on the Rocking Chair Net and often attended club meetings and functions. He will be sorely missed by us all.

Sound Familiar?

By KE8QF KG8QT/ Marty

It seems that there was a new ham who had just gotten his ticket in the mail that day and was eager to try out his new call. So, he happened to catch on to the end of a QSO and then threw his new call sign in there. Boy could you tell that he was excited. Anyway he had obviously been listening to some other repeaters and or HF, because, when it came his turn he said 'personal or handle here is...'

Well, this brought the repeater police into action. The gendarmes informed the newcomer in the most very polite terms that the terms 'personal or handle' were not used on that repeater. Further more that those terms were best left to the 'OTHER' services. Well, to be brief, this newcomer was never heard on that repeater system again. In fact, he was heard on HF on one of the traders nets a few days later with an HT for sale.

Imagine if you will, the first contact you made. Imagine the excitement. This hobby is very fun and should be fun at all times. It should also be a training exercise every day. Whether you are an old-timer or newcomer I think it is very important that we strive to make everyone welcome. Each and every person who has obtained an Amateur license has had to work hard to get to where they are today.

To often lately I see derisive remarks in packet messages. All to often you hear them over the air. Remember patience is a virtue and to forgive is divine. None of us owns a frequency yet all of us should strive to keep what we have in the current spectrum of radio. If things keep deteriorating as they are we may be out of usable frequency before too long. Look at what happened to 11 meters. Don't let that happen to us.

While surfing through packetdom not too long ago, the following article caught my eye. I found it to ring quite true. Let me know if you think so too:

How To Sound Like a Lid

by "Rusty Bumpers", N4LID

On two meters lately, I have noticed a tendency of people making a concerted effort to sound like a lid. Since this appears to be the new style in Amateur Radio, I thought I would present this handy guide to radio nerd-dom. The following is what I call: "How to sound like a LID in one easy lesson."

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Step One: Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and totally inappropriate for 2 meter FM, but they're fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant. I.e. "I'm going to QSY to the phone". Can you really change frequency to the phone? QSL used to mean "I am acknowledging receipt", but now it appears to mean "yes" or "OK". I guess I missed it when the ARRL changed the meaning. Also, it's best to use OK and QSL together. Redundancy is the better part of LID-dom.

Step Two: Never laugh, when you say "hi hi". No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW ragchewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on since the days of Marconi.

Step Three: Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like "destinated" and "negatory". It's OK to make up your own words here. "Yea Bill, I pheelbart zaphonix occasionally myself".

Step Four: Always say "XX4XXX" (insert your own call) "for ID" As mentioned in step one, anything that creates redundancy is always strongly encouraged. That's why we have the Department of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with "for Identification Purposes" instead of "for ID" While taking longer to say, it is worth more LID-points).

Step Five: The better the copy on 2 meter FM, the more you should phonetically spell your name, especially if it is short and/or a common one. I.E. " My name is Al... Alpha Lima" or "Jack...Juliett Alpha Charlie Kilo". If at all possible, make up unintelligible phonetics. "My name is Bob... Billibong Oregano Bumperpool".

Step Six: Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a wonderful memory test.

Step Seven: Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use "modulation" when you mean "deviation" and vice-versa.

Step Eight: If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, talking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker and, if it is an emergency, will encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.

Step Nine: Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.

Step Ten: The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject.

Step Eleven: If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least 4 out of 6 of the following: 1) His mental state; 2) His family; 3) His intelligence, or lack of same; 4) His sexual preference; 5) His relationship to small animals; 6) His other methods of self entertainment.

Step Twelve: If you hear two amateurs start a conversation on the repeater, wait until they are 20 seconds into their contact, and then break-in to use the patch. Make sure that it's only a simple routine phone call. It's also very important that you run the auto-patch for the full three minutes. This way, once the two re-establish contact, they won't even remember what they were talking about.

Step Thirteen: You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur.

Even if the directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternative route but better way to get there" version. This is most effective if several other LID trainees join in, each with a different route. By the time the amateur wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have mobiled out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get back out of town later.

These thirteen easy steps should put you well on the way to LID-hood. I hope these helpful hints save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect LID.

73 de "Rusty Bumpers", N4LID

(Rusty Bumpers is a pen name. He maintains anonymity so he can sit peacefully at club meetings and avoid the wrath (and breath) of the uninformed.)

The Zero Beat Tired of Bare Wire Dipoles? Try a Coax Antenna!

by Bob Ellis - WA4UQQ

When K4AHU introduced me to amateur radio in 1963, I remember what Ken said: "Your antenna is the most important part of your station." Sad to say, many "hams" ignore this basic principle feeling they can overcome deficiencies with an amplifier. But as my friend Roy, W4LKC, puts it: "Put up a fifty cent antenna and you get a fifty cent signal." That is why for 20-15-10 meters I run a KLM KT34XA at 52 feet. I rarely use my amplifier simply because its not needed.

But many cannot put up a beam because of finances, restrictions or space. Or, they need a good system for 75 or 40 meters. A few try a vertical but I cringe at the thought of the word. A vertical on 20 meters means you're going to get "stepped" on and badly! So, I hope you will at least try this antenna. Its simple to construct, it works great, and you don't have to own a bank to build one! It's one of the most "forgiving" systems I've found.

This antenna is very broadbanded. Normally the bandwidth of this antenna is around 500 Khz wide with average installation consideration and an SWR of under 2:1. The higher SWR occurring at band edges. With careful design you may have an SWR on one band edge equal to that of the opposite band edge. To do this you will want to establish a design frequency in the top half of the band. As a example, for 75 meters the frequency should be around 3.920. At the 4 Mhz edge the SWR will be about 1.5 to 1 with the SWR at 3.5 Mhz at about the same. This all without the aid of a "matchbox".

There are several reasons why this antenna is so broad. The antenna is matched to the feed line and it electrically incorporates its own balun. It has a large circular-mil area over its entire surface, thus a low "Q".

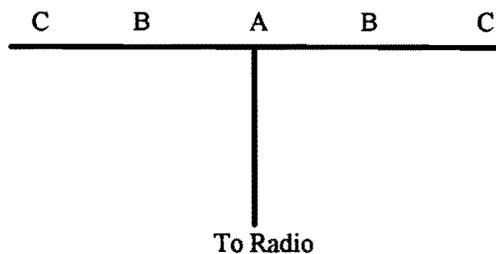
Over a five year period, tests reveal an arithmetic mean average of 1.5 dB gain over a simple dipole cut to the same frequency and installed at the same height. Also, expect a -6dB noise figure due to static charge build-up common to the open wire construction of a simple dipole. Since this array is completely covered by a vinyl jacket, it greatly reduces static charge build-up.

This antenna also greatly reduces harmonics of the operating frequency. Any signal fed to the antenna which is harmonically related to the antenna's operating range is reduced by a considerable amount as compared to a simple dipole.

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In summary, the advantages are: (1) Broad bandwidth (2) almost unaffected by environment (trees, buildings, fences, etc.) (3) positive gain with reference to a common dipole (4) attenuated harmonics (5) substantial decrease in static charge build-up (6) essentially non-directional (7) anti-TVI and (8) economical cost.

For antenna lengths see dimension table. Lets use the 80 meter system as an example. Use ONLY 52 ohm cable for both the construction and feeding of the antenna. I prefer RG58/U as its less expensive than RG8 and much lighter in weight. As for attenuation within the high frequencies, losses are negligible. Maximum legal power can be handled without fear of feed-line breakdown.



Band	"A"to"B"	"B"to"C"	TOTAL
75	30'6"	29'6"	120'
40	16'9"	14'9"	63'
20	8'9"	8'0"	33'6"
15	5'7"	5'10"	22'10"
10	4'2"	4'5"	17'2"

For 80 meters, measure from center ("A") out 30 feet 6 inches to point "B" and solder the inner conductor to the outer shield. This forms the 52 ohm matching section and the balun. When completed, waterproof these points well...silicone is the most logical choice and has worked well for me. Next, at both ends, or "C" of the antenna, the inner conductor must be shorted to the shield. Waterproofing of the ends is not necessary at this time as there may need cutting later for tuning purposes.

NOTE: Here is where the system has been modified from previous versions, so pay close attention to the following. At the center, cut the coax in half. Take the center conductor of the right side and solder it to the shield of the left side. Now reverse this on the left side, connecting the center conductor of the left side to the shield of the right side.

You now have two (2) solder points. Next, take the center conductor of the feed-line and connect to one solder point. Then take the shield of the feed-line and solder it to the other. Waterproof as best you know how. As for the feed-line, lengths of 57, 87 and 103 feet are

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optimum for 75-80 meter use. For 40 meters you MUST use feedline lengths in multiples of 16 feet. For 20, 15 and 10 meters, random length will be satisfactory. But separate feedlines MUST be used for each antenna.

Now the antenna is erected. After installation, measure the SWR and trim the antenna to the length at desired frequency. The SWR will be absolutely flat, 1.1 to 1. Be sure to solder the ends ("C") (shield to center conductor) before measuring SWR and also after completion. Now waterproof the ends.

Follow the same procedure for antennas of other bands. You can erect as a "flat top" or inverted "V". As a hint, here is what worked well at this QTH for a center support. A piece of PVC measuring 3" X 5" X 3/8" thick was cut and a hole was drilled at each top corner for hanging. Then three (3) holes were drilled in a triangle fashion, 2 at top of center to run antenna through and 1 close to the bottom for the feedline. Plexiglas will also work or you can use your own ingenuity with other materials at hand. Whatever the case, I'm sure you will be delighted with the results.

Minutes Of April 1995 HPARC Meeting

by James "Meet Me at the VFW" Bunting - KG8QT-KE8QT

Meeting commenced 7:40 P.M. with welcome and introductions. Motion by KG8PM to accept minutes of March meeting, 2nd by KA8NDY. Passed. Treasurer's report by K8TRF. Motion to accept by N8GMA; 2nd by K8DZT. Passed. Lengthy, verbose introduction to program by Barry WD8JWM. Excellent program by Jim N8QMD, on the Amateur Radio Public Service Corps, Skywarn procedures and siren testing. Recognition of the nominating committee for its work in securing a full slate of candidates for the May club elections. Broke for refreshments at 8:15; resumed at 8:40

Discussion of and call for volunteers for the Oak Apple Run June 3. Banquet update and reminder that tickets are now available. Notice that Jeff Bauer, the attorney who has worked on the club's incorporation, has been offered 2 tickets to the banquet. Motion by KB80LC to approve expenditures for gift certificates for the school janitors and the banquet tickets for Jeff Bauer; 2nd by N8GMA. Passed. Field Day update. Still looking for operator for 80 M. N8QVS will arrange for food. Notice that Tom, N8TMQ, has offered his house near Alger for club operation of the Michigan QSO party, May 20 and 21. Notice that all rooms have been taken and filled for Dayton. Reminder of MS walk 4/23, commencing 7 A.M. at Seaholm High School, Birmingham. New members introduced and welcomed. Nominating sheets passed out and nominations concluded. Membership drawing won by AI, KA8PEH. Meeting adjourned 9:30 P.M.

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

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Board of Directors Meeting Schedule:

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 - KG8OW Arlan
Mailing Crew - KA8NCH Ed,
WB8OSZ Gene, KB8NIH Bill
DART Board of Directors- WD8S, NR8D,
WD8JWM, KA8PHP, KG8OW
Repeater Trustees - 2m N8MLM 440 N8EQD

CW Net Managers - AA8JN Frank N8WYO Al
2m Net Manager - KE8QT Jern
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 KG8QT Dave KB8RXK
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

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KA8NCH 11-95

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