

The Zero Beat



Vol. 30 No. 15
November 1995

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

HPARC President Sweeps Stakes

- Issues Challenge: "Catch Me if You Can!"

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The Presidential Podium

- *The QRM source.*

The guest speaker at our November meeting will be Chuck WV8A. Chuck will speak about the Internet and its relationship to Amateur Radio. We will also spend some time discussing the up-coming Sweepstakes Contest to be held over the weekend of November 18. Also enclosed in this Zero Beat is a copy of the Swap 'n Shop flier. It is the duty of every member to get the word out on the Swap; talk it up on the repeaters, on the low bands and on vhf nets.

If you are a Member of the HPARC I expect you to put some work into the Swap. The Swap generates over three-quarters of our operating budget; the 5 bucks that you pay in dues does not even cover the cost of your Newsletter, so please plan on being there to lead a hand.

The work party will meet for breakfast on Saturday December 2, 10:00 am at the Country Boy restaurant on 9 mile near the High School. Then we will begin setting up tables about 12:00.

Tom N8TMQ will be lining up helpers for the 5:00 am shift on Sunday. This way not every one needs to be at the school early on Sunday morning. We will begin taking tables down about 12:30 pm, when the dealers begin leaving. We will also need to put the school back into some kind of order by sweeping floors and putting tables back into the commons area. If there are any questions on this Event, and it is a major one for the club, call me or Tom.

With your help, I am sure that this Swap will be one of the best!

73
Mike Van Buren WD8S

The Swap Hound

- *Let's make a deal.*

Notice: Don't believe everything that you read here. Listings are found on the street, so be sure to practice safe swap. Errors will occur on a random basis. Objects in your mirror may be closer than they appear.

For Sale:

A complete set of QST magazines, from 1966 to the present. Call Carl W8BGH at 810.644.3804.

Wilson 3 element system 4-bander, \$40.00 My wife said to get it out of the yard or I will have to go. Help me, it is down and ready for pick up. Call Don WA8E at 810.574.1756.

Telix Tape Measure Dipole for portable use, great for camping. List price is \$200.00 I have some used ones, will let go for \$75.00, first come first served. When they're gone, they're gone! Call Mike WD8S 810.399.7970.

November 5, 1995. Southfield, MI. Oak Park and Spirit of 76 ARK. Admission \$5.00. Southfield-Lathrup High School, 19301 West 12 Mile rd..

November 18-19 Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo. at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Indiana ARRL State Convention. For info write to ACARTS, P.O. Box 10342 Fort Wayne IN 46851.

December 3, 1995. HPARC SWAP. Hazel Park High School. Call Tom N8TMQ to volunteer to help or to reserve a table.

HPARC Board Meetings

All Board meetings are at 7:30 pm, Hoover Elementary School

December 4, 1995

Hazel Park

Amateur Radio Club
An ARRL Special Service Club

Board of Directors

President - WD8S, Mike
 1st Vice President - AA8KR, Phil
 2nd Vice President - KG8QT, Marty
 Secretary - KE8QT, Jim
 Treasurer - K8TRF, Dave
 Director - N8TMQ, Tom
 Parliamentarian - N8ZLK, Steve

Repeaters

146.640 (-) N8MLM
 443.225(+) N8EQD

Nets

146.640 7:00 pm Sun - Kids
 146.640 9:00 pm Sun - General
 21.125 8:00 pm Mon - CW
 21.125 8:00 pm Tue - CW

January ??, 1996
 February 5, 1996
 March 4, 1996
 April 1, 1996
 April 29, 1996
 June 6, 1996

Public Service Corner

- The Service part. . .

Many will be shocked to find
 When the Day of Judgement nears,
 That there's a special place in Heaven
 Set aside for volunteers.
 Furnished with big recliners,
 Satin couches and footstools,
 Where there's no committee chairman,
 No group leaders, or carpools.
 No eager team that needs a coach; no
 bazaar; no bake sale,
 There will be nothing to staple, not one
 thing to fold or mail.
 Telephone lists will be outlawed, but a
 finger snap will bring
 Cool drinks and gourmet dinners, and
 treats fit for a king.
 You ask: "Who'll serve these
 privileged few, and work for all their
 worth?"
 Why, all who reaped the benefits, but
 never volunteered on Earth.

(Author Unknown)

Every Night at 10:15 pm.
 SouthEastern Michigan Traffic Net
 (SEMTN) meets to pass National
 Traffic System (NTS) Traffic. Check in
 on the Edison Repeater, 145.33 (-)
 whether you have traffic or not. This is
 also a Training Net, so there tips and
 techniques to be learned.

Every Wednesday at 9:00 pm.
 Oakland County Amateur Radio Public
 Service Corps (ARPSC) net on the
 SMART, 147.140 (+). All are invited
 to check in.

Saturday, November 4, 1995. Oakland
 County Siren Test. Check-in 12:00 pm
 and after on the DART. Test activates
 at 1:00 pm. Last test this year.

Testing, Testing

- Be all you can be.

If you have recently upgraded,
 congratulations! Please let Phil AA8KR
 know so he can update the membership
 roster. 810.641.9723. Also, let the
 Editor know and your call sign, name
 and new license class will appear in this
 fine publication for all to admire.

- Up, Up and Away

(A lot of upgrading happened in the
 HPARC last summer: if I missed you,
 let me know)

KG8UC Phil (3) Advanced

If it's your turn, try any of the following:

HPARC VE testing:
 Call Mike WD8S at 810.399.7970 or
 Bill N8SWQ at 313.533.5962.
 November 16, 1995 ✓
 January 25, 1996 ✓
 March 28, 1996 ✓
 May 30, 1996 ✓

Oak Park VE testing:
 Call Jeff N8WRY at 810.642.3608
 November 5, 1995, SWAP: pre-
 registration required. 810.559.2442/
 December 4, 1995 ✓
 February 6, 1995 ✓
 April 2, 1996 ✓
 June 4, 1996 ✓

Motor City Radio Club VE testing:
 Call 313.676.6248
 November 11, 1995 ✓
 December 13, 1995 ✓

Contests and Events

- The Hobby part. . .

**Please note: these listings are only brief
 highlights. Complete Contest and Event
 information is contained in the ARRL QST.**

What's this, a CONTEST?

Contests. What do they mean to you?
 To some, sheer enjoyment of making a
 large volume of new contacts in a
 weekend is the attraction. Included in
 that group of contacts might be a new
 state, increasing code speed or even
 making new friend, others use a contest

to check their station's efficiency.
 There are even for some who take all of
 this very seriously and are out to win.
 Regardless of motive, each participant
 gains expertise, learns a little more
 about propagation, and becomes a
 better operator, more equipped to
 perform effectively in the case of an
 emergency, while having a good time.

I have operated the ARRL sweepstakes
 contest now for close to 10 years, and
 my score gets a little better every year,
 but it takes time and a lot of contest
 operating to get really good. I challenge
 everyone in the Club to take away the
 Club's top honor from me, for CW and
 Phone this year. I have won this award
 for about the last 8 years. Set a goal in
 this contest; maybe to increase your
 code speed by 10 wpm, or to work three
 new states that you may need for Work
 all States, to get the 100 contacts that
 will get you a participation pin, or even
 work all 77 ARRL Sections. Don't set
 your goal too low or you won't progress,
 or, more importantly, draw any
 satisfaction out of achieving it.

The ARRL Sweepstakes starts
 November 4th for CW and November
 18th for Phone, 4 pm EST or 2100
 UTC. You are allowed to operate 24 of
 the next 30 hours. The exchange is
 easy:

No.	Pwr.	Call	Ck.	Sect.
178	A	KG8QT	94	MI

No.	Consecutive contact number
Pwr.	Your power classification A=low power B= high power, Q= QRP.
Call	Your call sign
Ck.	Last two numbers of the year you were licensed.
Sect.	ARRL section

Preparing for the contest takes some
 work. Listen to the band for about two
 weeks before the contest. You can learn
 what bands are open at a given time.

Get a comfortable chair, check your
 digital clock and set it in a prominent
 position.

Get out your headphones; these are a
 must, because although your family will

not see you all weekend, they shouldn't have to listen to all those beeps.

Check out your memory Keyer and/or voice recorder.

Learn how to keep score before the contest and learn the ARRL Sections abbreviations from the front page of QST.

Computers are great but if you use one, learn the program before the Contest starts, because the one thing you don't need is to mess up and not know how to fix it during the Contest!

Have lot of munchies and drinks in the shack and let the Contest begin.

The Sweepstakes contest is my favorite, I have done well in it and set my goals to first to work all sections, and then to make more contact than the year before.

If you do well the Hazel Park Club will pay the tab for the 100 Contact Participation Pin and the Clean Sweep coffee mug; turn your logs in at the December meeting. All logs will count as part of the aggregate Club score too.

At the November meeting I will give some hints that I have use in the past.

73 and GUD LUK
Mike Van Buren WD8S

ARRL Sweepstakes
Nov 4 - 6 CW
Nov 18 - 20 Phone

SET, Traffic, and You

- by Jim N8QMD

On Saturday October 7, 1995, Oakland County conducted its annual Simulated Emergency Test, or SET. Many of our Club members participated; Tim KB8HSR was Net Control, Phil AA8KR and Christine N8WIQ, and Mike N8EQD, were assigned to be field stations "on site" and several others checked in.

The exercise simulated the kinds of

messages (traffic) which would be generated and passed in the event of disasters in the County during which the normal communications channels either fail or became hopelessly "clogged."

Tim KB8HSR, at Net Control, was the focal point of dozens of messages in a one-hour test time frame. Not even an Air Traffic Controller would be as busy, and they don't work alone!

Too many of the messages were sent at "normal reading speed" instead of "traffic speed." I find that my reading speed is about four times faster than my printing speed.

OK, Mr. Editor, we feel sorry for Tim, but really, so what? I can't participate in a SET, but I'll check in when there is a REAL disaster.

Boy, I'm glad you asked! There is a perfect way for us to practice message handling daily; NTS! It gives us all the opportunity to practice sending and receiving Traffic in a structured manner, and at the correct speed.

The SouthEast Michigan Traffic Net (SEMTN) meets every evening at 10:15 pm on the Edison 145.33 repeater. Any and all check-ins are welcome, with or without traffic.

Why Slow Speed CW?

- PSE QRS

The Monday Night Slow Speed CW Net has had the same small group of loyal members check in for some time now. Several HPARC members, when asked why they don't join, offer such reasons as "It's too fast for me," "I'm just not ready yet; maybe when my speed improves," or the ever-popular "I'm so slow that I'd be embarrassed."

Question: "Why do we have to run the Net so slow when everybody who checks in is a General Class or above?"

Answer: the Slow Speed Net is just that, a slow speed net which is good practice for those with slow speed copying and sending skills.

So what if a station checks in at a painfully slow rate and sends the famous 8-dit Oops! code? What better way to play CW than with your Pals?

There are also several of our members who have earned their HF privileges who monitor the Net for copy practice. Grab that key and check in for on-the-air practice.

Nobody can see how nervous you look. [Your Editor counts that as a blessing] In fact, you can't tell much at all about the other station unless they tell you. Is Jan a boy or a girl? Eight or eighty? Deaf? Blind? Have a speech defect? Wheelchair bound? It doesn't matter; all you need are the dits and dahs.

So, drag out that key, keyer, or rusty saw blade and ten penny nail, and tune up 21.125 MHz every Monday night at 8:00 pm. You may find yourself smiling! You may even like it so much you'll want to join the Tuesday Net, same time, same frequency, but any speed you find comfortable.

Club Clothing

- Seeking Sartorial Splendor?

Want to be the envy of your peers? Looking for a way to make a fashion statement wherever you go? You want to see a Mohan; Phil II N8UUS, Phil III KG8UC, Bob KB8TVD or Joe KB8TVE at any Club function, or call Phil II at 810.932.2141.

	T-Shirt	Jacket	Jacket
		Flannel	Quilted
		Lining	Lining
Size	Price		
S-XL	6.00	32.00*	37.00*
2X	7.25	34.50	39.50
3X	8.50	37.00	42.00
4X	9.75	39.50	44.50
5X	11.00	N/A	N/A

*Imprinting of up to two lines is already included in these prices.

The Club contribution of \$10.00 towards a jacket is included in all jacket prices.

Calendar

- November 4, 1995 **ARRL Sweepstakes, CW**
November 8, 1995 **HPARC general membership meeting.** Chuck, WV8A will make a presentation on Internet Services and Ham Radio.
November 18, 1995 **ARRL Sweepstakes, Phone**
November 23, 1995 **Thanksgiving Day.** Bon Appetit!
November 24, 1995 **Leftover Day.** Also, there are only four weeks until Christmas. Mark those radio supply Catalogs and leave Santa lots of hints now!
December 13, 1995 **HPARC general membership meeting.**
December 31, 1995 **Straight Key Night**

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
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Royal Oak MI 48073
