

# The Zero Beat

The Official Publication of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

1/97

## PRESIDENT'S QRM

Happy New Year, and I hope that everyone had a great Christmas. The worries about the Swap were all for naught; I felt that the Swap was a good one, and it will keep the club floating and in good shape for the 1997 year. Our Treasurer Steve, N8ZLK, is putting together the 1997 budget, and it will be shown to the club in January or February. This is not an easy job, and is Steve's first effort. If you have any input, contact Steve so the Board can make adjustments.

In January there is a VHF Sweepstakes contest which is always fun. I have sent out a mailing to all ARRL clubs in Michigan looking for support for the Michigan QSO party which will be held on the weekend of April 19 and 20. I will have a list of the rules at the meeting if anyone is interested. Hank, K8DD, from the Eastern Michigan Club, will be putting up a Web page for the QSO party which will have the entry form and rules on line. Look for it at [K8DD@contesting.com](mailto:K8DD@contesting.com).

I am looking for some more volunteers. We will need a Banquet chairman and a Field Day Chairman. The Board will act on these items at its January 2 meeting. Thanks go out again to Tom, N8TMQ, for the outstanding job on the Swap, and to Jerry and Pat, N8UUF and KB8VWK, for the fine spread they put together for our Christmas party. If you missed the party, you missed a great time, and all the toys! I can't say how impressed I was by the amount of toys we gave to the Toys for Tots Program.

DART dues, as of January, will come due annually (from the month you join). Jeff, KA8PHP, is putting together a mailing as I write this, and notice for your repeater dues should be in the mail by month's end. Phil, N8UUS, is putting together another club jacket order. The club picks up \$10.00 of your first jacket. The jacket costs \$30, your name and call are another \$7, less the \$10 that the club picks up. Total cost to you, \$27.00. What a deal! And it only costs you \$5 to join the club. Contact Phil at 810-932-2141 to place your order.

This month's program will be put on by Don, KB8MVS, who will speak to us about Amateur Radio in Thailand where he has spent several years. See you all at the January 8 membership meeting at 7:30 P.M.

## BOARD TRIES SOMETHING NEW

Enclosed with this issue of the Zerobeat is a questionnaire. In an attempt to better serve the needs of the club, we have included this questionnaire and asked you to please fill it out and return it to the Board. We as the current Board of Directors have come to a point where we need you, the members, to help give direction to where the club should turn in the future. It is, for all intents, your club, and by filling it out honestly and returning it either at the next general meeting or sending it to the club's Post Office Box, you will help us and the future Boards in those directions. We do not need names or calls listed on the questionnaire.

2

We do not even need a return address on the envelope. In fact, to retain all anonymity if you should decide to post it, please do so with the Club P.O. Box as the return address. That address is shown on the back of this Zerobeat.

**Disclaimer!:** Let it be known now that all suggestions will be read and considered. Also let it be known that not all suggestions will be acted upon. Per the by-laws of the club, a quorum must be had in order to effect change.

### **THE LADDER LINE**

By George A. Dickel

Now that the holidays are over, let's get back to business. I hope everyone is sharp and didn't stay up too late working "straight/silent key nite" 'cause it's time for a quiz. Don't worry, it's true or false, and if you send in the correct answers you can win a valuable prize. Except for KG8XN, who owes me breakfast if he doesn't get them all right.

True or False?

1) There are many kinds of dipoles such as folded, trap or thin wire but none radiates more field than another, providing each has insignificant ohmic losses and the power fed to each is the same.

2) A low SWR doesn't prove that an antenna system is efficient. Resistance from poor connections, a poor ground system or lossy cable can absorb power rather than radiate it.

3) High SWR in a coax feed line

does not produce feed line radiation.

4) Both ladder line and coax feed lines may radiate by picking up energy from the antenna due to non-optimum positioning of the feed line.

5) It's a waste of time to reduce the SWR on a coaxial line below 2:1 at HF if you're looking for any significant increase in power transfer.

6) The SWR on the feed line between the antenna and the antenna tuner is determined only by the mis-match at the antenna end, and is not changed or "brought down" by the tuner.

Next month we will publish the answers and announce the winners. For those of you who can't wait, get yourself a copy of "Reflections" by M. Walter Maxwell, W2DU, wherever ARRL publications are sold.

George Dickel continues his anonymous crusade in hopes of not causing a food fight at breakfast next week.

### **CALL SIGN CHANGES**

The following fellows have received call sign changes since the last issue of Zerobeat, all under Gate 2 of the Vanity call program: Bruce, formerly KA8WBQ, is now W8WQ. Jim, formerly KE8QT, is now K8JV. Marty, formerly KG8QT, is now N8MG.

### **A 2-METER TIN FOIL VERTICAL DIPOLE**

Here's a fun little antenna for your 2-meter HT that's easy to assemble and dis-assemble. You can hang it up in your motel

room when you travel or on a low tree branch when you're on a picnic. It works a lot better than your rubber duck, and it packs and stores easily.

Tear two 18" lengths from a roll of aluminum foil. These will become the legs of your dipole. Roll them up to about a 1/4 inch in diameter and then twist and stretch until they are just over 19" and about 1/8 inch in diameter. Easy, isn't it? The twisting gives the legs rigidity. Now get a length of 50 ohm coax; 12 or so feet of 58 or 8x should do it. One end should have 3" of braid and 3" of insulated center conductor with a 1/2 inch of bare wire sticking out. The other end can have whatever connector you want to use at your HT's antenna connection.

Attach one leg to the center conductor and one leg to the braid. You can use paper clips or tape. Okay, you're almost ready to go. Remember, you're going to hang this antenna vertically. For support, tape the antenna end of the coax to the wall or tree limb or whatever about 6 inches in from the legs. Now tape or tack the end of one leg to whatever structure you are using, and let the other leg hang free. Bend it a little if you need to so it will be as straight as possible. You won't need a lot of height, but try to get the center at least at eye level. Attach the other end of the coax to your HT. That's it; you're ready to transmit. It works, it's fun and it impresses the ladies. One hint: if you don't have any aluminum foil, DO NOT try to substitute with waxed paper or cling wrap.

**REPEATER ETIQUETTE**

By Mr. Manners

The following was submitted anonymously, but definitely merits publication.

Recently, tempers have been flaring around the Metro Detroit Repeater area. It seems as though there are some who feel that things are getting out of hand. What do I refer to? FOR ID...LET ME SEE IF I HAVE IT...10-4...MACHINE...(multiple calls)NOTHING HEARD...(throat noises)... The list goes on and on. VHF repeater operations are quite different from HF or simplex operations. It is commonly felt that one should be natural and not use jargon. And, what is acceptable on repeater is not necessarily so on the next.

Let's take a look at what causes the good nature of some to become sour at the sound of these utterances:

FOR ID - It would seem to some that by just throwing out your call that it was obvious that you were ID'ing in accordance with the rules of Amateur Radio.

LET ME SEE IF I HAVE IT? - This is a common misconception when the last person to speak does not turn the frequency over to another station. Silence is usually the precursor to this happening.

10-4 - A holdover from the Eleven Meter days.

MACHINE - Another name for the repeater.

Multiple calls (i.e.:SE43T, SE43T, SE43T this is 9ZT. Again, again. NOTHING HEARD,

9ZT CLEAR)- A throw back to HF.

In hindsight these things are pretty silly, yet they are the biggest source of unrest on area repeaters. They are not unique to new hams; they are used by all of us, and probably at the most inopportune times. In the interest of brother/sisterhood, let's try to think about what we say and do on the airwaves. It just might be the reason why people are leaving the hobby or will not answer your call.

Editor's comment: The ARRL Repeater Directory and the ARRL Handbook contain excellent sections on repeater etiquette and procedures.

**SUNDAY NIGHT 2-METER NET CONTROL STATIONS**

SUNDAY	NIGHT	2-METER	NET
1/5	#1464	K8OW	
1/12	#1465	N8WIQ	
1/19	#1466	K8JV	
1/26	#1467	N8GMA	
2/2	#1468	N8HFM	
2/9	#1469	N8MG	
2/16	#1470	KC8AQJ	
2/23	#1471	AA8JN	

**EDITORIAL**

What better time than the beginning of the year to look at the Club activities for the year ahead? There is a large number of activities that HPARC either sponsors or actively participates in. Novice classes, VE testing, Oak Apple Run, Oakland County siren testing, SET, JOTA, Field Day, June Banquet, Dayton trip, Michigan QSO Party, Toys for Tots, Annual Swap, Christmas Party, November Sweepstakes, CW proficiency nets, two repeaters, club jackets and tee shirts, meeting refreshments, annual golf outing. Did I miss something? Probably; we are indeed an active club. All of these things need volunteers to make them work. We can't take it for granted that the same people will be willing and available to take on the same tasks year after year, and we can't expect our club officers to wave a magic wand to make everything fall into place. So, please, when our officers issue a call for volunteers, answer the call and do your part to make 1997 our best year yet.



HAZEL PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
P. O. Box 368  
HAZEL PARK, MICHIGAN 48030

**Speaker KB8MVS Don to speak on Amateur Radio in Thailand**