

# THE ZERO BEAT

The Official Publication of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

4/97

## PRESIDENT'S APRIL QRM

This month's meeting is to be held at Hoover Elementary School in Hazel Park at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday April 9. The meeting will host the nomination of officers for election in May. The Nominating Committee should or will be contacting every eligible member (member for one year) before the April meeting. Help them out; their job is to put together a slate of officers. This is your club and without everyone's help the club will not move forward.

This month's meeting will feature a short program on computer logging. The Log-EQF program will be presented, and will show the advantages of computer logging.

Don't forget the Banquet on June 11 and the Michigan QSO Party in April. Let's put together a good club score; send your logs in and give the club credit.

Listen to the DART; the new repeater is up along with the new controller. If you see any improvement, let the new DART board know. Thanks to Pete, N8NYQ, for putting the machine on the air, and to Mike, N8EQD and Chris, N8MLM, for getting it ready to go up. This is a true team effort that made it work. Look for the 440 MHz machine to go up soon.

## THE DART REPORT

Steve Harris, KF8KS, Pres.

On March 3, 1997 the membership of the Detroit Area Repeater Team, the "friendliest repeater in town," elected 3 new directors and one incumbent. I will serve as president; Lee, W8HL, membership chair; Barry, WD8JWM, treasurer and Jim, K8JV, general factotum. Feel free to contact any of us with questions or suggestions.

We appreciate your support. If you are not presently a member, please see Lee or any one of the DART board to sign up. Dan, KA8NDY, has volunteered to sell memberships, also. At \$20 per year (5 1/2 cents per day) it is a bargain. Don't forget, this paltry sum covers all hams in your household.

I will have more to report next month, as we will have had a board meeting by then. We will have also had the opportunity to work with the technical committee. They are a group of talented and handsome fellows led by Mike, WD8S, helping us with maintenance, expansion and upgrade issues.

Til next time, see you on the DART. Have fun and be friendly.

## THE LADDER LINE

George A. Dickel

Last time we started to think about what antenna gain means and what we can do with it. Remember, an antenna with gain tends to direct or focus power in a particular direction or directions. I like the magnifying glass example. On a sunny day, one can use a magnifying glass to focus the sun's power into a small, very hot dot on the sidewalk. As a young lad, I found this useful for frying ants and burning holes in my sister's doll. Can any of you budding scientists tell me how much gain Grandma's reading glasses might exhibit?

Anyway, back to gain antennas. In ham radio a common type of directional or gain antenna is the beam or yagi. Dr. Yagi invented it many years ago; good thing for us that it's a short name. Could just as well have been Teagardin, I suppose. So, as we rotate the beam we can focus the power in the desired direction. If our beam has 6 dbi gain it's like running 400 watts of power instead of 100. Six db is a full "S" unit on most receivers and could make the difference between making the contact and not. Just as useful with the beam is what you **don't** hear. If there is a strong station to your west and you point your beam to the east, the strong station will fade and allow you to pick up stations you might otherwise not hear. Sort of like that strong station is seen (and heard) through the wrong end of a telescope.

Hope these few thoughts on our friend gain have inspired you to drag out the antenna books. Next month is request month. "Go away" will be one of the few requests not honored. George Dickel continues to remain anonymous, but was reportedly seen at the last swap looking for a matching network for a magnifying glass.

## NEW NET CONTROL STATION FOR SLOW SPEED CW NET

Andy, KC8DDL, has graciously agreed to become the net control station for the Monday night slow speed CW net commencing May. Bruce, KG8XN, is doing a fine job, but will be leaving us for Germany for 6 months. This net meets Monday nights at 9:00 P.M. on or near 21.125 MHz.

## KERCHUNKING

Mister Manners

Kerchunking; either a verb or a noun, but usually used as a verb. From the German "kerchunken"; to kerchunk a repeater. I kerchunk, you kerchunk, he/she/it kerchunks. Whenever I kerchunk, I always identify. This not only keeps many from being rubbed the wrong way, but has resulted in many nice QSO's.

me with an installation last September.) From the end which made it through the tree, I attached some heavy-duty dacron cord and pulled it through. With the G5RV attached to the end, all you have to do is pull up the wire antenna. I keep the copper wire of the antenna from kinking during the process by inserting a swivel type latch between the end insulator and the tie-off rope. You can find these swivels in most hardware stores.

For a rig I use a Yaesu FT-890 with an automatic antenna tuner built in. This is a great rig in a compact case, and works extremely well with the G5RV. I usually keep skeds with Jim, K8JV and Frank, K8JN on 80 Meter CW.

My last time operating from the cabin in 1996 was on a very cold weekend in early December. I had a sked with Jim on Friday early evening. I was late getting there because I had stopped to see Tony, WD7G at his new place near West Branch. I had already drained the water system for the winter a few weeks before, so I did not leave the heat on. Well, it was about 35 degrees inside the cabin, and I only had five minutes to make the sked. I got the furnace running and the rig set up and my iambic keyer plugged in as quickly as I could. I called Jim and he was anxiously awaiting my call. I couldn't operate the paddles bare-handed since it was so cold, so I wore my gloves. Then, half-way through the QSO, my bladder needed to be relieved of some pressure created by some pop which Tony had forced me to drink earlier. Since the inside plumbing was shut down for the winter, I was forced to go outside in the freezing cold. I asked Jim to stand by while I took care of things and needless to say, Jim wanted to know how frozen my "limbs" were!!! Then to top it off, the pen I was using to copy CW with started to quit from the cold.

Well Jim and I had a good laugh over this for several weeks afterward. But you know what? I'd do it all over again cuz I'd never have this story to tell or the enjoyment of talking to pals like this if it wasn't for ham radio.

Incidentally, Mike, WD8S and I used the same set-up on a fishing trip to Quebec last June in addition to working a few stations mobile. In fact, one station worked from the car was in Italy, and several others in North America. For mobile operation, I use the Hustler resonator antenna system with my FT-890, and a console made of pine, fabricated by WD8S, for holding the rig. Give me a call if you'd like more details.

**REBUTTAL TO MISTER MANNERS**

The following letter is in rebuttal to Mister Manners' March column, "Advise on the Air."

Let me start by saying that I think it's a great idea to have a "Mr.Manners" column dedicated to reinforcing good repeater use; consideration of others (both users

and lurkers), following procedural conventions, employing good repeater etiquette and, of course, complying with FCC regulations. I think that the column is a valuable service for beginners and experienced users. However, I think it's neither healthy nor constructive to attempt to restrict the actual content of the repeater conversations, providing that they reflect good repeater use. Granted, we wouldn't deliberately irritate anybody, but let's face it - the DART users are just people and a rather diverse crowd at that. We talk about a lot of different things, and not everybody is going to enjoy or benefit from all of the conversations. In the case of giving advise, I personally have been able to use a lot of the advise dispensed on the DART, and wouldn't want to restrict it. Even if inaccurate advise is dispensed, so what? That's what happens when imperfect humans converse. Besides, the DART seems to have a rather vigorous self-correcting feature.

So, my message to Mr. Manners is this: keep up the good work; it's a useful column, but don't try to stamp out all the potentially annoying or unproductive conversations - if you succeed, the "friendliest repeater in town" will also be the quietest!

Bruce, KG8XN

**SUNDAY NIGHT 2 METER NET CONTROL STATIONS**

4/13	#1478	N8MG
4/20	#1479	KC8AQJ
4/27	#1480	K8JN
5/04	#1481	N8TMQ
5/11	#1482	K8OW

**EDITORIAL**

Many thanks to all those who wrote columns, articles and letters for this month's newsletter. Anyone who wants to share experiences, opinions, etc., is welcome and encouraged to do so.

**ROCKING CHAIR NET PARTY**

The Rocking Chair Net will host a party on Sunday April 20 at 2:30 P.M. at Jimi's, Royal Oak. Bill, KB8NIH will have more details.

A good kerchunk tells you many things:

- 1) Your transmitter works.
- 2) Your receiver works.
- 3) Your antenna works.
- 4) The repeater is there.
- 5) The repeater receiver works.
- 6) The repeater trans. works.
- 7) The repeater antenna works.
- 8) The repeater's call.

Sometimes my kerchunk is answered by an anonymous kerchunk, but it seems my kerchunk is always of higher quality than his kerchunk.

I understand a local chapter of KA will soon be forming in the area; you may want to consider joining. Motron (listed in most ham mags) advertises an anonymous kerchunking identifier which will print out each month the date, time and call of the radio(s) that kerchunked the repeater. There is talk that the IRS will be getting interested in the amateur radio hobby soon; someone let the cat out of the bag that there is money to be made from charging for kerchunks. Look for Form 1040-K in the not-too-distant future.

National Kerchunk Day will be passed by Congress next year. On this day ONLY kerchunking stations will be allowed on repeaters. Anyone actually engaging in useful conversation will have their license revoked for a period not to exceed 90 days.

So you see that kerchunking can be a fine art or a boon to society. The lesson for this month is concluded.

## JUNE BANQUET

Club members, their families and friends are invited to the HPARC June Officers Installation Banquet. A sumptuous buffet will be served on Wednesday June 11 at Farina's in Berkley on the west side of Coolidge, just south of Catalpa. Meet for refreshments (cash bar) at 7:00 P.M.; dinner at 7:45. There will be gifts for the ladies and loads of prizes including a Radio Shack 2 meter FM mobile transceiver for the grand prize.

Come break bread with your fellow club members and their families. Come see your officers installed. Pick up your hard-earned Sweepstakes pins. Honor your fellow amateurs who will be recognized for their special achievements. Come have fun! Tickets are \$16 and will be available from Jim, K8JV at the April and May club meetings. May 27 will be the last day you can get a ticket, so please don't miss out on this memorable club function.

## MOBILE LOW BAND OPERATIONS

Tom Krausnick, WC9F

About 10 to 12 years ago, my employer saw fit to send me from northwest Indiana to Toledo, Ohio, weekly. The drive over the Indiana and Ohio toll roads was truly boring - no hills or curves and little traffic, with a 55 MPH speed limit. So I bought an old mobile rig (Yaesu 7B) which delivered about 65 watts to the Hustler mobile antennas. I also found an old Heathkit keyer at a hamfest. Its major attraction was that it was extremely cheap. It also had the paddles built in. I worked only CW in the car which was sometimes a challenge because the 7B had very little filtering for CW (after all, who operates mobile CW?).

The rig was easy and convenient to operate. I drove a Ford Taurus and mounted the rig on an old CB hump mount. The rig was just the right height to support the keyer which was placed such that the front feet caught on the front and top of the rig. I would then place my elbow on the center arm rest for good stability while sending. The whole thing was quite stable, safe and comfortable for me to operate. I think my fist was better then than it is now on the Tuesday night net I occasionally manage to check into. I never did learn how to strap a paddle to my leg as recommended by other mobile CW ops.

Ragchew CW contacts were common, and could last from the entry to the exit of each turnpike. Learning to copy CW in your head is NOT difficult. The trips went a whole lot better with the rig in the car. I particularly remember two contacts - I was called by a Japanese station early one morning and by a French station one afternoon. Both signals were very weak, and I had to pull over to complete the QSO's. They both felt really good.

I haven't tried mobile low band hamming since I stopped driving the toll roads. Too much traffic and probably slowed reflexes make it seem unsafe for me now, but it sure was fun while it lasted.

## PORTABLE LOW BAND OPERATIONS

Roger J. Cameron, WB8HBJ

To me, portable operation is a challenge and an opportunity to really have some fun with this wonderful hobby of ours. My favorite portable place is my cabin in the woods about 30 miles west of Oscoda. I've got a lot of tall trees which make perfect supports for the ends of a G5RV wire antenna. The biggest challenge is getting the antenna up high. I used a long fishing rod with some twelve pound test line and a heavy sinker to launch a line through the top of the trees. (By the way, I owe Mike, WD8S, a debt of gratitude for showing off this technique at Field Day a few years ago, and for helping

# ELMER LIST

<b>President</b>	Mike Van Buren	399-7970
WD8S		
<b>1st Vice President</b>	Phil Ode	641-9723
AA8KR		
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Marty Mendelson	754-9016
N8MG		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Steve Lund	643-4635
N8ZLK		
<b>Secretary</b>	Barb Parrott	656-3728
KC8AQJ		
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Arlan Levitan	399-6963
K8OW		
<b>Director</b>	Tony Brent	399-7411
WD7G		
<b>Swap-n-Shop</b>	Tom Austin	293-7398
N8TMQ		
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Jim Bunting	645-2704
K8JV		
<b>Classes</b>	Jerry Ciesielski	521-2370
N8UUF	Frank Banar	575-9135
WB8YRV	Dan Learned	756-5341
KA8NDY		
<b>Ve Testing</b>	Bill Sopha	533-5962
N8SWQ	Mike Van Buren	399-7970
	WD7G	399-7411
	KA8NDY	756-5341
	K8JV	645-2704

Amateur TV	KB8CRM -Jeff	313-794-5955
Antennas(install)	N8TMQ-Tom	810-293-7398
Awards		
WAS	KA8NDK-Dick	810-357-4363
DXCC	K8GT-Jerry	810-559-9173
Code Practice	WD7G-Tony	810-399-7411
	KA8NDY-Dan	810-756-5341
	K8JV-Jim	810-645-2704
	N8WYO-AI	810-588-3860
Computers	KB8RBZ-Bruce	810-689-5073
Dx	AA8TK-Evan	810-584-0487
	K8GT-Jerry	810-559-9173
FM	N8QVS-Bill	810-544-2452
Wire Antennas	KF8KS-Steve	810-689-4048
	KB8VWP	810-399-2673
	AA8UU	810-547-2539
Traffic Nets	K8JN-Frank	810-465-6694
	N8FPN-John	810-879-0103
Tube Radio	N8QVS-Bill	810-544-2452
	KF8KS-Steve	810-689-4048
RFI	K8GT-Jerry	810-559-9173
Buying ur 1st Rig	KA8NDY-Dan	810-756-5341
	WD8S-Mike	810-399-7970
Contests & QSLing	K8GT-Jerry	810-559-9173
VHF-UHF	KC8DDG-Tom	810-731-4905
General Ham Info	WD8S-Mike	810-399-7970
	KA8NDY-Dan	810-756-5341
Homebrew	WD7G-Tony	810-399-7411
	N8QVS	810-544-2452
QRP	WD7G-Tony	810-399-7411
	KA8NDY	810-756-5341
Municipal Zoning	N8CWB-Bob	810-547-3254
(Structural Const.)		



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*Nominating of officers & computer logging(log-eqf)*