

# The Zero Beat

January, 2001

## The President's Monthly QRM

OK! the Holidays have come and gone it is now time for the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club to have its annual swap. This means get the word out and sign up to help. It is the only money-raising function the club has, and a little time spent with your buddies helping at the swap sure beats \$50 in dues every year. Heck it's even a lot of fun when enough of the guys and gals show up. So sign up to help out, bring a friend and have a good time.

Bring a friend to the swap, sure it's a good way for someone to learn a little about ham radio. By its nature ham radio is a very social activity and a swap is just one of those events. Keeping the club growing with new members is a good way of bring in diversity and new ideas. So bring in the fellow down the street or at work who has been asking you about some of that strange stuff you have in your car or on your roof.

Speaking of expanding the club, Tom (KC8MCO) will be heading the spring Tech. class. If you would like to help, see him, I know he is looking for someone to help out by taking one of the class sessions. If you are looking to upgrade, it's a good way to learn some of the theory. The teacher always learns more then the students.

If you are feeling left out, the new year is the traditional time to change you life. There are many club activities. Join in the Oak Apple Run (we supply the communications every year for the run and we always need more operators). Same for the MS Walk in the spring and the summer 150 bike ride-- join in! Skywarn classes will be coming up soon; they always prove to be interesting and

they are free. The ARPSC is always looking for help and have some pretty interesting activities during the year--join in. Field Day, JOTA, November Sweeps, Michigan QSO party-- join in. If you don't see something you like bring your ideas to the board and the club. We are always looking for something new.

The ARRL has an e-mail forwarding service for all members and it's free. If you are a member, sign up for it. It will make it easy for you and the club members to know your e-mail address. It won't change if you get a different ISP, so if you want to get a different service you don't have to send out dozens of change of address notices that won't get into address books. Makes life easy for everyone.

See you at the January meeting -- bring a friend.

*Phil, AA8KR*

## Meeting Minutes

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club  
December 13, 2000

Meeting called to order at 7:50 PM by Phil, AA8KR. The few, the proud, the brave were present despite the inclement weather. Thirty eight members registered for the ARRL door prize which was won by Ray, KC8NDO.

The Holiday Party was deemed a success by all in attendance. A very nice selection of toys and cash was presented to the Salvation Army. Bill, N8HFM provided plenty of tasty sandwiches as well as an excellent selection of prizes. Thank you, Bill. In addition, Lightnin', AA8UU was resplendent in his Christmas haircut.

Topics discussed in the business meeting were as follows:

- Swap. January 21, 2001. Mark your calendars.

- Treasurer's report given by Bruck, AB8CI and accepted by the membership as presented.
- Technician Classes. Tom, KC8MCO will preside beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> at the GMU facility in Auburn Hills. Please contact Tom to support the project.
- D.A.R.T. Jerry, KC8GRZ, President, reminded us of proper procedure for emergency traffic handling. He also presented a spiffy framed certificate (but no cash) to his unassuming predecessor.
- We gave an enthusiastic welcome to these new members:  
KC8FYP, George
- Mike, WD8S announced that the Club won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Michigan QSO Party. Also the merry band of contestants at RJ's took 3<sup>rd</sup> in the multi-op category. It must be the Faygo.

The meeting was formally adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Steve, KF8KS, Secretary*

## AO-40 (Phase 3-D) Recovery Effort Continues

Efforts continue to assess the status of AO-40 following a resumption of telemetry transmissions. AO-40 went silent December 13, but ground controllers successfully reset the main computer on Christmas Day and got the satellite transmitting again.

Ground controllers now are analyzing the telemetry sent via the S2 beacon on 2401.305 MHz. AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, says the command team worked through the holidays in an effort to determine just what went wrong aboard AO-40. Among other things, ground controllers would like to know what actually happened on December 13 and why, as well as which telemetry functions are known to be

correct and which data are suspect and why. The satellite went silent during maneuvers to test its onboard 400-Newton propulsion system following an earlier orbit-shifting burn.

Ground controllers also want to know the spacecraft's actual attitude with respect to Earth--and if it has changed attitude. Other parameters they'll be examining include spin velocity, the status of batteries, battery chargers and regulators, and what happened to the onboard computers, IHU-1 and IHU 2, and why.

The AO-40 command team also wants to find out if all the antennas are operational and what can be done next to improve communications, and if there are any risks involved in attempting to restart onboard systems. So far, the 2-meter beacon transmitter has remained off the air since AO-40 was returned to ground control on Christmas Day. It's believed that problems with the 70-cm transmitter developed shortly after launch. The 2.4 GHz transmitter appears to be operating "nominally," however.

"When questions such as these--and others--are answered, it may be possible to determine the working capability of the spacecraft, and, if appropriate, to start to try operation on other bands," Haighton said. He said critical decisions will be made over the next week or two "based on the results of the analysis and much discussion among the command team."

*From The ARRL Letter*

### **New FCC System Yields Faster License Grants**

The FCC's new system to handle batch filed amateur applications from Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has cut processing time from hours to minutes. The FCC inaugurated the more rapid amateur license application processing system December 28.

"Way to go, FCC!" said an enthusiastic ARRL/VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, after his office fed its first batch of license applications into the system. Jahnke says processing of five dozen ARRL/VEC applications took about 50

minutes. The W4VEC in North Carolina and Central America VEC also took advantage of the new system for the first time.

Except for a two-hour window right after midnight each day, the speedy new system looks for VEC submissions each hour on the half hour. With FCC license grant processing now measured in terms of hours instead of days, the major factor now determining the time from exam to license grant is how quickly VE teams get their test results to their VECs.

The FCC has been estimating a processing window of up to 90 minutes, depending on volume and arrival time. License grant results should be available immediately on the Universal Licensing System Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>, using the license search option. Once a grant is in the FCC database, the licensee has operating privileges.

Applications processed by the FCC one day will appear in the public update ("zip") files the following morning. Public call sign servers on the Internet should be able to update within 24 hours after FCC action--rather than the 48 hours that's now typical.

On-line filings from individuals, weekend filings and FCC-manually processed applications filed to Gettysburg will continue to be handled as they are now. These are batched for midnight processing, and weekend filings will not queue up until Monday midnight.

*From The ARRL Bulletin*

### **ARRL Seeks Reversal of FCC PRB-1 Decision**

The ARRL is asking the full FCC to review part of an FCC Order that declined to include CC&Rs--covenants, conditions and restrictions--under the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. Imposed by private homeowners' associations or by developers, CC&Rs--also known as "restrictive covenants" or "deed restrictions"--often impede or prohibit the installation of outside antennas.

"ARRL's petition relative to the application of its PRB-1 policy to private land use regulations has not, to date, been afforded a thorough review or a fair analysis," the ARRL said in its Application for Review, filed December 15. The ARRL maintains that the FCC should have the same interest in the effective performance of an Amateur Radio station and in the promotion of amateur communications regardless of whether the licensee's property is privately or publicly regulated.

In November, FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Deputy Chief Kathleen O'Brien Ham--acting under "delegated authority"--turned down an ARRL Petition for Reconsideration that--among other things--called on the FCC to declare that PRB-1 applies to amateurs governed by CC&Rs or condominium regulations just as it does to hams regulated solely by local zoning laws. The ARRL now wants the full Commission to review--and reverse--O'Brien Ham's decision.

The ARRL has argued that since PRB-1 was promulgated in 1985, the FCC has made it clear that it has Congressional authority to prohibit restrictive covenants that could keep property owners and even renters from installing antennas to receive TV, satellite and similar signals. The same principle applies to Amateur Radio, the ARRL asserted.

The FCC cannot use the private contractual nature of covenants "as a justification for the arbitrary and disparate treatment of radio amateurs similarly situated," the League said.

The ARRL made it clear, however, that it's not seeking any kind of preferential treatment from homeowners' associations, architectural committees or condominium boards. "It would be entirely consistent with PRB-1, for example, for a homeowners association to permit only a relatively small antenna in a planned community, such as a backyard, ground-mounted vertical antenna or one of the small Yagi configurations similar to an outdoor television antenna," the ARRL said.

The ARRL said that since the FCC already has jurisdiction to apply PRB-1 to all types of land-use regulation and has said it's willing to "encourage" private land-use authorities to apply PRB-1, "there is no legal or policy reason for continuing the distinction" between private and public land-use regulation with respect to amateur antennas. The ARRL asserts that Amateur Radio operators should be able to negotiate "reasonable accommodation" provisions with local homeowner's associations just as they now may do with governmental land-use regulators.

Many amateurs now say it's impossible to find desirable housing that comes without CC&Rs. The League's Regulatory Information Branch reports that the topic of restrictive covenants and antennas is one of the most frequently raised by members contacting the ARRL for information.

*From The ARRL Letter*

#### HPARC DART Net Control List-2001

The following club members have generously volunteered to host the HPARC Sunday Night Net on the DART 146.64 repeater. All nets are on Sunday evenings at 9:00 PM local time. If you are scheduled to be a Net Control, but are unable to meet your commitment, please contact our Net Manager, Bill, N8QVS, as soon as possible, in order that he can arrange for a substitute. This list contains those who have volunteered for the first quarter of the year:

Jan. 07	W8WQ	Bruce	#1674
Jan. 14	AA8TK	Evan	#1675
Jan. 21	AA8UU	John	#1676
Jan. 28	KC8MPQ	Shawn	#1677
Feb. 04	N8HFM	Bill	#1678
Feb. 11	N8QVS	Bill	#1679
Feb. 18	AA8UU	John	#1680
Feb. 25	N8TMQ	Tom	#1681
Mar. 04	AB8CI	Bruce	#1682
Mar. 11	AA8UU	John	#1683
Mar. 18	AA8TK	Evan	#1684
Mar. 25	W8WQ	Bruce	#1685

#### HPARC Meeting set for January 10

Don't forget our next club meeting on Wednesday, January 10 at 7:30 PM at the Hoover Elementary School. Our

guest speaker will be Jim Wade, WB8SIW, who will be discussing the history of Morse Telegraphy. Those club members who have heard Jim's presentations in the past will recall the interesting and informative discussions that he has led with his audiences. This promises to be another great evening, so be sure to be there!

Additionally, this will be the last club meeting before our annual Swap and Shop. Be sure to sign up for a volunteer spot to make sure that the event is a success. If every member volunteers to help just an hour or two, the event will go much more smoothly, and the volunteers will all get a chance to enjoy attending the swap, too. If you can't be there to sign up on Wednesday night, please contact Swap Chair, Tom Krausnick, WC9F, at 248-689-8256, or E-mail him at tkrausnick@home.com.

The swap will be on Sunday, January 21 at 8:00 AM. Only Vendors who have obtained special tickets and admission badges will be allowed into the school before the doors open. The only other exception will be club volunteers who have a legitimate reason for being inside the area prior to opening (talk-in, security, parking volunteers, etc.). This rule has been instituted at the request of vendors, as well as in fairness to those who arrive and wait in line at the doors, so that all the really choice "junque" will not be sold before the official start time of the swap.

Of additional interest, we will be trying a catering service this year in an effort to improve the food choices available to members and guests. Please let us know how you like the changes, and more importantly, **how you will be helping to make this event a success!**

#### Other HPARC Events and Gatherings

Don't forget these weekly HPARC events:

**Friday Breakfast** at the Ram's Horn, 31253 Woodward in Royal Oak, North of 13 Mile Road. Begins at 7:15 AM.

**Saturday Breakfast** at Jimi's in Royal Oak, 714 S. Washington. Begins at 9:30 AM.

**Sunday HPARC NET** on the DART Repeater 146.64 - 100 Hz. 9:00 PM. Net Manager N8QVS

**Tuesday Medium Speed Code Practice** 8 PM, 28.128 MHz.

#### FCC Wraps Up W5YI VEC-South Carolina Investigation

The FCC wrote Frederick O. Maia of the W5YI-VEC on December 8, 2000, declaring that it has completed its review of three 1999 South Carolina W5YI-VEC Amateur Radio exam sessions. The FCC said it found "nothing improper" at an October 9, 1999, W5YI-VEC test session in Iva, but it suggested the W5YI-VEC could have avoided problems with forgeries at two other 1999 exam sessions in Clemson.

The FCC initiated an audit of the W5YI-VEC last year, and the VEC has cooperated in the probe. In its December letter, the FCC asked the W5YI-VEC to detail how it screens and accredits VEs and its procedures for verifying the results of W5YI-VEC test sessions. FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said that the forgeries and a Clemson "sub-session," where two volunteer examiners are alleged to have fraudulently upgraded themselves, "constitute an alarming failure of oversight and integrity in the Volunteer Examiner program at those sessions." The FCC alleges that then-volunteer examiners William J. Browning, ex-AB4BB and AF4PJ, and James F. Chambers, KF4PWF--in Hollingsworth's words--"apparently awarded themselves upgrades to Extra class" at the ad hoc exam session at Browning's home by forging the signatures of other VEs. The FCC also says someone forged the signature of VE Grady Robinson, AK4N, on applications for all 10 examinees at an August 26, 1999, session in Clemson. Hollingsworth said that Robinson "was not present at the session and was in no way at fault."

As a result of the Clemson inquiry, Browning forfeited his Amateur Radio license and Chambers was called in for

retesting. Hollingsworth said Chambers role remained "under review."

Hollingsworth suggested that the irregularities "could have been detected by merely attempting to verify the presence of the volunteer examiners whose names and call signs appeared on the examination session documents." The FCC last year expanded its W5YI-VEC probe to include allegations of examination irregularities of W5YI-VEC's operations in Puerto Rico. As a result of the FCC's investigation, Maia canceled the accreditation of all W5YI-VEC volunteer examiners in Puerto Rico last year and established a new program on the island. Citing "allegations of examination irregularities," the FCC also recently set aside an amateur upgrade that resulted from a W5YI-VEC exam session in Hawaii. *From the FCC Enforcement Report on the ARRL Web*

#### **Check Your Mailing Label... Is Your HPARC Membership Expired?**

One of the benefits of membership in the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club is the subscription to the *Zero Beat*, the club's monthly newsletter which strives to keep you informed of club happenings, as well as general amateur radio-related news items. We do this as a service to our membership, and hope that you find the articles informative and helpful.

As HPARC members, please remember that membership must be renewed on an annual basis. For many club members, that renewal time arrives in December or January. An easy way to verify this is to check the address label on this issue of the *Zero Beat*. The date in the upper right corner of the label is the month and year in which your membership officially expires. As a service to club members, we continue to mail out issues for a couple of months past this date, but printing and mailing costs continue to rise.

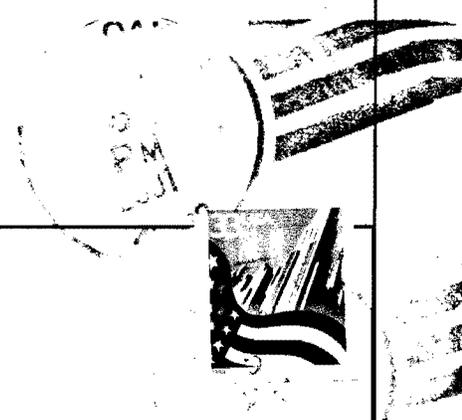
We therefore urge you to check the expiration date on your label, and if you are nearing the expiration of your membership, this month would be a perfect time to renew. Current membership rates are \$10 for an individual, or \$25 for the Family Plan, which can be a bargain if you have three or more members living at the same address. If you have questions about your membership or about renewing, please see Murray Scott, KE8UM, at any club meeting. He will be happy to get things set up for you.

#### **Submissions and Articles Welcomed for the *Zero Beat***

As you read this paper every month, some of you are probably thinking, *I wish he would cover the topic of xxxx, or*

*maybe, why are they wasting my time talking about yyyy?* Well, we here at the *Zero Beat* staff are always welcoming articles from our readers, whether of a technical nature, or of an opinion column, or anything related to our club and our hobby.

If you think you might like to contribute to the paper, it's very easy. You can E-mail your articles and columns to N8WR@arrl.net, or you could also type them up and pass them over to me at a club meeting or breakfast at Jimi's in Royal Oak on Saturday mornings. I will be happy to include interesting submissions, and will edit them for you as needed, so don't worry about getting everything 100% letter perfect. The important thing is to contribute, and then you can share your wisdom and experience with your fellow hams and friends in the club. Here's your invitation, so let's see what we can all come up with!



**The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 368**

**Hazel Park, Michigan 48030**

*Please visit our web site:*

**[HTTP://WWW.OSL.NET/W8HP](http://www.osl.net/w8hp)**

**Check Mailing Label: Is your membership about to expire?**

***Club Meeting January 10***

***HPARC Swap- January 21***

**W8WQ**

Life

Bruce Merrill

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