



The Zero Beat

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

September, 2002

A little work and a little teamwork go a long way.

This summer Murray, KE8UM, applied to the city of Troy to put up an antenna structure. They turned him down despite a local ordinance that should have allowed him to erect an antenna. In an effort to get the decision changed, we talked to everyone who would listen to us and the Zoning Board would not even consider any change to its decision.

Murray then got the issue on the City Council agenda. With it on the agenda, we put out a call to all of the Hazel Park members and the Hams

of Troy to attend the City Council meeting to support a request, to change the ordinance that would allow antennas for licensed amateur radio operators. There was a terrific turnout at the council meeting, even Michigan Section Manager Dick Mondro, W8FQT, was there and said a few words. The result was that the council directed the planning commission to write an ordinance that will allow Amateur Radio operators the ability to put up an antenna support structure without a special permit. Later the Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously to reconsider Murray's request and the planning commission has appointed a committee to work on the council's request; this committee includes Ham radio operators.

It will be a couple of months before the necessary changes are made, but they will benefit all of the Ham radio operators that live in Troy. This was the result of a number of Ham Radio operators pitching in to get the word out and of those that showed up at the council meeting. I won't list them all because the total would be close to a hundred people that spread the word and/or showed up at the meeting. We even made it into the ARRL newsletter and web site, as well as getting the attention of the local Troy paper. This is a good demonstration of what can be done with some teamwork and perseverance. For those of you who have unfavorable local ordinances, we as a club are learning how to convince the cities to see things in a different light. Let us know... maybe we can help out in your town. For the Troy Hams who are not members of the HPARC, please come to any of our meetings and bring a friend – we would like to see you there.

Phil Ode AA8KR, President

Great Lakes Division Leadership Changes

George Race, WB8BGY, of Albion, Michigan, stepped down as Great Lakes Director during the ARRL Board of Directors meeting on July 20. Race, 66, had served on the Board for 12 years. Prior to that, he'd held numerous other field organization positions over the years, including several terms as Michigan Section Manager.

Race said that while a Board vote to shift "Section News" from QST to the Web did play a small part in his decision to resign, it was not the primary factor and he harbors "no bad feelings" that the vote went the other way. "My wife Barb and I just decided we needed some time for ourselves," said Race, who resigned in a letter to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Board secretary. "There's life beyond the League," Race added.

Legendary within the ARRL field organization for his travels around the Great Lakes Division, Race said he's spent some 45,000 to 50,000 miles a year on the road on the League's behalf and "wore out three cars."

"I've enjoyed so much working with the membership and with the Board," said Race, who is the technical services supervisor at Albion College, where he's worked for nearly 35 years.

Great Lakes Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA, was declared the new Director. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has appointed Michigan Section Manager Dick Mondro, W8FQT, to be the new Great Lakes Vice Director. From *The ARRL Bulletin*

Michigan Town Could Ease Amateur Antenna Restrictions

ARRL Great Lakes Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT, reports that the City of Troy, Michigan, appears poised to loosen restrictions on Amateur Radio antenna structures. Mondro attended a meeting of the Troy City Council August 5 at which he and five other hams spoke. As a result, city council voted unanimously to send the current ordinance back to the planning commission. Council requested the planning commission rewrite the ordinance to allow a higher minimum antenna support structure without the need for a zoning hearing.

"The mayor was convinced that this was essential due to the services afforded by Amateur Radio operators," Mondro said.

The current ordinance in Troy--at 81,000 inhabitants Michigan's 12th most populous city--only allows an antenna structure 25 feet above grade or 12 feet above the roof, if roof-mounted. Anything higher requires the amateur to demonstrate that the allowed limit would "preclude communications."

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club President Phil Ode, AA8KR, said he, club members and individual amateurs have been working with city officials over the past few months to gain a more liberal interpretation. He said he's hoping to secure at least a 75-foot minimum for antenna support structures before a zoning hearing is needed.

In his remarks to council, Mondro mentioned the recent federal grant to ARRL that will support emergency communications training and certification. He also explained the ARES and RACES programs and the involvement of amateurs in public service in the community and the state. Mondro said there were no dissenters present. Approximately 60 to 70 amateurs attended the meeting, which lasted until midnight.

"Another victory for Amateur Radio in Michigan!" Mondro declared.

Welcome to Another New Year at HPARC

Well, another year is beginning for the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club. This means a return to the routines we have all come to enjoy, such as monthly HPARC membership meetings at Hoover Elementary School in Hazel Park. Our first meeting for the 2002-03 year will take place this Wednesday, September 11 at 7:30 PM. As usual, Second Vice President, Ken Krause, AD8M, has arranged an interesting presentation on EMI/RFI prevention.

We are sending this issue of *The Zero Beat* to a large number of Hams in the Troy area who may not be familiar with the Hazel Park ARC. Many of these folks responded favorably to our appeal in July and came out to the Troy City Council to voice an opinion on the city's restrictive Antenna Ordinance. With their help, we have convinced the city that the ordinance is not in the best interests of a community that might have to depend on Amateur Radio as a city-wide means of Emergency Communication. Did you know that Amateur Radio is actually a huge part of Troy's Emergency Plan, or that the Troy Fire Chief is also a Ham and a member of HPARC? Please join us in welcoming all the Hams in Troy to the next few meetings. We hope they will get to know us and become a part of our group.

You also may have noticed that *The Zero Beat* looks a little different this month. Blame it on computer problems and trying to get my old program to run on my new XP system. I hope to have the bugs fixed by the October issue, so bear with me, please. As usual, if you have information that you would like to put in the club newsletter, please send it in an Email to N8WR@arrl.net. For information of a more time-sensitive nature, join us in the Sunday Night Net on the DART Repeater (146.64, negative offset, 100 Hz PL), every Sunday at 9:00 PM local time.

Be sure to check your mailing label! In the upper right corner of the label is the date when your HPARC membership will expire. Dues for HPARC are still among the most reasonable in the area and are only \$10 per member per year. If more than two people in the same household wish to become members, take advantage of our Family Membership: all members at one address for \$25 per year. We can keep our dues as low as this because our annual Swap & Shop in January finances almost all of the club's activities during the year. We have kept our dues constant even after two postal rate increases. If you miss an issue, please ho to <http://www.qsl.net/w8hp>. This is the HPARC web site, and our Webmaster, Tom, KC8MCO, is updating the site and will include each issue of the *Zero Beat* as a downloadable Adobe Acrobat PDF file.
Jeff Albrecht, N8WR, Zero Beat Editor

New VE Test Schedule for HPARC VE Exams

According to our club's W5YI Contact VE, Joe Kennedy, N8OZ, our VE Test schedule for the 2002-03 year will change. Beginning in October, HPOARC will have a VE Test Session **every month** on the first Wednesday of the month, Except for January, when it will be delayed until the first Friday, due to school closings. SO, if you want to upgrade or have a friend who wants to get that first ticket, come to the Hoover Elementary School Library on the first Wednesday at 7:30 PM. Email N8OZ@arrl.net for more details, or call Joe at 586-977-7222.

Technician Classes to Begin September 17

HPARC will conduct Technician Theory classes at Seaholm High School beginning Tuesday, September 17. The classes will be held in room G-110 and will run from 7:00-9:00 PM every week except the first week in October. Class registration is \$5, payable to Birmingham Community Education at time of enrollment or at the first class. Students will need the latest copy of *Now You're Talking*, which will be available at a discounted price. The class lasts 10 weeks, and the final class will include a VE Test session so that students may obtain a license, if desired. Please call Jeff, N8WR, at 248-642-3608 for details.

DART Sunday night Net Control Assignments

The following is a listing of Net Control station assignments for the Sunday Night DART/HPARC Net. As always, if you are unable to meet your net control obligation, please contact Net Manager Bill Ketel, N8QVS as soon as possible to arrange a replacement. You can reach Bill at 248-544-2452 or Email to: wek@via-systems.com.

Sep. 8	AA8TK	Evan	#1761
Sep. 15	AA8UU	John	#1762
Sep. 22	N8TMQ	Tom	#1763
Sep. 29	N8HFM	Bill #2	#1764
Oct. 6	AD8M	Ken	#1765
Oct. 13	N8QVS	Bill	#1766
Oct. 20	AA8KR	Phil	#1767
Oct. 27	N8TMQ	Tom	#1768

Other HPARC Regular Events and Gatherings

Sunday: HPARC/DART 2 Meter net. 9:00 PM 146.64 (-) 100 Hz
Tuesday Medium Speed CW Net 8:00 PM 28.128 +/-QRM
Tuesday Technician Theory Class, 7-9 PM, Room G110, Seaholm High School
Thursday Oakland County ARPSC Net 145.25 (-) 100 Hz
Friday Morning Breakfast at The Ram's Horn, 31253 Woodward, North of 13 Mile Rd. 7:30 AM
Saturday breakfast at Jimi's in Royal Oak, 714 S. Washington, 9:30 AM

HPARC Board Members- How to Reach Us

President: Phil Ode, AA8KR@arrl.net 248-641-9723
First Vice President: Murray Scott, KE8UM@arrl.net 248-743-1704
Second Vice President: Ken Krause, AD8M@arrl.net 248-588-4321
Treasurer: Bruce Bryant, AB8C1@qsl.net 248-577-9868
Secretary: Dee Hays, N8UZE@arrl.net 586-790-4583
Director: Tom Austin, N8TMQ@arrl.net 586-293-7398
Parliamentarian: Bill Ketel, wek@via-systems.com, 248-544-2452

Contact VE: Joe Kennedy, N8OZ@arrl.net 586-977-7222
Editor: Jeff Albrecht, N8WR@arrl.net 248-642-3608

Call to Action!

As you read earlier in this issue, local Hams were successful in helping to overturn a restrictive Antenna Zoning Ordinance in Troy. We must remember that this is only the first step. There are municipalities all over Michigan that restrict the right of licensed Amateurs to erect suitable antenna support structures. If we want this to change, we need to become more active.

So, what can you do? Go to the Great Lakes Division web site (you can find a link for it at <http://www.arrl.org>). Look at the Michigan Section Site. There is a discussion there of the Michigan PRB-1 proposal. This is a law that our Section leadership is trying to get passed in Michigan. What the law proposes is that local communities must recognize Federal Preemption of local zoning laws, as specified in the FCC's PRB-1 ruling of a few years ago. This law directs communities to work with, instead of against, licenses hams who want to erect antennas and supporting structures. Be sure to sign up to support this legislation in any way you can.

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 368
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Visit our Web Site: <http://www.qsl.net/w8hp>

Check mailing label-is your membership about to expire??

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