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The President's Monthly QRM

A lot of new things this year! We have a new board that has already been hard at work getting things ready for the new season. At least for now we will not be meeting at Hoover Elementary School. The meetings will be held at Webster School near Nine Mile and John R. (431 West Jarvis). Same days and times. This is necessary because the gym at Hoover is being rebuilt and is closed to all evening activities until it is finished.

The Zero Beat

The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

http://www.qsl.net/w8shp

September, 2003

As of this date, we will still hold the Swap at the High School, in January. Although the High School has some new construction, it is supposed to be completed by the end of December (keep your fingers crossed).

The first board meeting was held at my house but the rest should be held at one of the Hazel Park schools (we don't know which one yet) probably at Webster. The VE testing session's location is not known yet either most likely they will be held at Webster. They are running the scheduling very tight from the Hazel Park Schools and all of the assignments have not been made yet. I'll stay in contact with them and maybe by the first club meeting we will have definite locations. The times are not a problem; those have already been submitted and approved by the proper individuals.

The fall license classes will begin September 11, the day after the first club meeting and will be in Warren again. If you have any questions contact Jeff, N8WR. He is running the classes again this year.

Steve WD9FTH has already made most of the schedule of speakers for the upcoming year. There is still a spot or two open, so if you have any ideas, let him know quickly before all of the dates will be filled.

I am looking forward to a busy year at the HPARC for everyone--- see you at the meeting and bring a friend.

Phil Ode, AA8KR, President

IMPORTANT NOTE: New Location for HPARC Club Meetings this Year

As Phil mentioned above, there will be a new location for club meetings for the first part of the year. Hoover Elementary School is currently

undergoing renovations, so the gym is not available. We will meet at Webster School. This building is located several blocks South of Nine Mile Road and West of John R. the best way to reach it is to travel down John R., and cross Nine Mile, going South. After a few blocks, you will see Jarvis on the Right side of the road. Turn right (West) here and follow the street until you come across the school.

to play it safe, several of us will be there early, so we can provide a talk-in for folks unfamiliar with this part of Hazel Park. Listen in on the DART 2 meter machine.

Technician Classes Begin this Week in Warren

Once again, the hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will be holding technician level classes for the public. As with last Spring's class, we will meet in the Butcher Community Center on Cosgrove Ave. Butcher is located East of Ryan Rd., and between I-696 and Martin Rd. Take Ryan north of 696 until you reach Martin. turn East and follow Martin to Cosgrove. There is a big sign there for Butcher Park. Turn right onto Cosgrove and follow the road to the school complex on the left side of the road.

Classes will meet on Thursdays, beginning September 11, and will run from 7-9 PM. All students must register with Warren Consolidated Schools. there is a \$20 registration fee. If students do not have the NEW edition of *Now You're talking*, we will have them available for sale at our cost of \$15 per copy.

the class will run for 10 weeks, with one week off in the middle for Conferences. the final class will consist of a VE Test Session, run by the HPARC VE Team.

If you would like further information, please call Jeff Albrecht at 248-6472-3608, or Warren Schools at 586-574-3207.

Thanks also to Carl and Dee Flint, KB8BSG and N8UZE, who will be helping with class instruction.

Jeff Albrecht, N8WR

DART: Hitting the UHF Target

Perhaps you've tried it already, or maybe you haven't heard--the DART 440 is on the air! Earlier this summer we purchased a used VERTEX VRX 5000 commercial repeater and a new Antennex 7db gain UHF antenna.

After some initial testing and work by John/AA8UU on the controller, we had Murray, KE8UM, and John, K8UP, bring out their Motorola Service Monitors and check it out. With Murray and John/UP's blessing, we were almost ready to put into service.

There was only one more problem--every piece of old equipment at the UHF site. We could never understand how the old repeater just could not "hear". If you were near it, you could communicate a little. But as soon as you moved a mile or two away, it just wouldn't work for anything. John, AA8UU and I headed over to the UHF site in Southfield--a 10 story office building--many times this summer. It was frustrating--we'd get there all excited, only to leave with the old repeater not working.

To make a long story somewhat shorter, many things turned out to be wrong there. First, the big Hustler antenna (ask Don/W8PDI how big) was bad. The feedline, which seems intermittent, we are still leery of. The duplexer, a commercial 450-470 unit, was also a problem.

It turns out that even though it is tuned for our frequencies (to allow one antenna to simultaneously transmit and receive without interference or de-sensing), it had incredible losses that effectively made the repeater deaf.

It didn't help that the original repeater (an RCA that's close to 40 years old), had problems as well, including a weak/blown power amp tube. Instead of trying to repair it, (and take Murray's time away from the

ongoing VHF project), we decided it was more effective to replace it.

The final home for the UHF machine is a water tower in Beverly Hills. This will place the repeater closer to its users, and help us avoid the possible radio/TV signal interference we have at the Southfield site.

As I write this, I expect the repeater to be there for the first club meeting of the fall. Let me know what kind of signal reports you get from various locations (and remember, 440 acts differently than 2 meter). And yes, it *will* have backup power.

Next will be John, A8UU, getting the IRLP (Internet Relay Linking Protocol) up and running. This will allow our little UHF machine to link worldwide by pressing some DTMF codes in from your rig. When we get this up and running, we'll send members out the necessary codes to access it.

I know there are some of you wondering what's happening with the remote receive sites for the VHF DART. We are still working on getting our East side link up. Murray has installed the UHF link receive and voter at the main site, but still has work to do to get the VHF remote receiver running. As he's told me, the first will be the hardest. One option is to buy a ready made remote receiver--let me know your thoughts on that.

Another issue is link frequencies. We are connecting the remote sites using UHF links; unfortunately, we need separate frequencies for each remote receiver. MARC--the repeater coordination council, has to assign us the frequencies, and they are far behind in processing applications. Right now we have one frequency assigned to us for the East side, but we are still waiting for 2 others. All we can do is wait for the additional frequencies. Hopefully, Murray will have the equipment all built, and then just have to get the correct crystals we need for whatever frequency we are assigned.

What is needed is assistance in locating permanent receive sites in all directions--North South, East and West. I don't think our members understand how much we need your

help in finding suitable sites. The 4 of us on the DART board can't do this on our own--we need you to get us the name/phone number/address of possible sites, and we can then approach the building management.

Projects like these take the work of many people--one person cannot do it on their own. I'd like to thank all of you who have helped--John, K8UP, Murray, KE8UM, Ralph, K8CAR, Alex, KC8TGW, who climbed up and removed the old antenna, Don, W8PDI, who's trying to fix the old antenna, Bob, KC8WPO, who got us on the water tower, Wallace Murray, KE8HR, who's loaned us a duplexer, Harry, KC8TEV and Steve, /KF8KS, who provided signal reports when we needed them, and especially John, AA8UU, who, in addition to many nights working on the controller and cable, made several trips on his lunch hour to work on the repeater.

It really makes me proud to be part of the Detroit Area Repeater Team!

Tony Gallucci, N8VR

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
- Thursday** Oakland County ARPSC Net 145.25 (-) 100 Hz
- Technician Classes at Butcher Community Center, Warren
- 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
- Nightly except Sunday:** the Rocking Chair Net 145.63 FM Simplex, 8:00 PM, Local time.
- Nightly:** SE Michigan Traffic Net on 145.33 (-) no PL beginning at 10:15 PM.

Net Control List 2003 Hazel Park HPARC/DART Sunday Evening Net

The following is a list of stations who have agreed to host the HPARC weekly net on the DART Repeater. As always, if you are unable to fulfill your duties as Net Control Operator, please

contact Bill Ketel, N8QVS as soon as possible so that he might arrange a substitute.

- Sep. 07 KC8TEV Harry #1813
- Sep. 14 AA8UU John #1814
- Sep. 21 N8TMQ Tom #1815
- Sep. 28 N8HFM Bill #1816
- Oct. 05 AD8M Ken #1817
- Oct. 12 N8QVS Bill #1818
- Oct. 19 AA8KR Phill #1819
- Oct. 26 N8TMQ Tom #1820
- Nov. 02 AA8UU John #1821
- Nov. 09 N8HFM Bill #1822
- Nov. 16 AD8M Ken #1823
- Nov. 23 N8QVS Bill #2 #1824

Save This Handy Calendar of Club Events for the Coming Year

Club Meetings (Wednesdays):

- 09/10/2003
- 10/08/2003
- 11/12/2003
- 12/10/2003
- 01/14/2004
- 02/11/2004
- 03/10/2004
- 04/14/2004
- 05/12/2004

VE Test Sessions (Tuesdays):

- 09/23/2003
- 11/25/2003
- 01/27/2004
- 03/23/2004
- 05/25/2004

HPARC Board Meetings (Mondays)

- :09/01/2003
- 09/29/2003
- 11/03/2003
- 12/01/2003
- 01/05/2004
- 02/02/2004
- 03/01/2004
- 04/05/2004
- 05/03/2004
- 05/31/2004

HPARC Swap

Setup: Saturday, 01/17/04
Swap: Sunday, 01/18/03

Be sure to check back for exact locations of various meetings and gatherings, as Hoover School is undergoing renovations. Cut this out and put it on your refrigerator!!!

Meet the New Board Members

As you already know, we have several new officers on the HPARC Board this year. Though they have been active members of the club, you might not be very familiar with each of them. As a service to you, your friendly *Zero Beat* Editor is bringing you a brief sketch of each of hte new folks. This month, our econd Vice President, Steve Gladstein, WD9FTH.

Steve Gladstein, is our new 2nd Vice President. The 2nd VP is responsible for monthly meeting presentations, coordinating Dayton Hamvention hotel room reservations, and the November Sweeps prizes.

Steve grew up in Chicago, and received his Novice license at age 15 in 1977. He has a degree in Electrical Engineering from Southern Illinois University. Currently employed by Bosch in Farmington Hills, he is responsible for automotive Electromagnetic Compatibility testing and PCB design. He enjoys collecting and repairing Heathkit ham and test equipment. Steve is most active on 20 meters during weekends with the Heathkit HW-101 he built in 1977. He also has a Kenwood TS2000 for times when the shack is too warm to think about powering-up vacuum tubes. Feel free to drop Steve an email at steve.gladstein@us.bosch.com, or call (248) 737-9393 with comments or presentation suggestions.

Check Your Mailing Label

Is your membership up-to-date? It's easy to find out! just look at the mailing label on your *ero Beat*. The label shows the month and year of your current membership expiration. If your membership is about to expire (or already has!), it's easy and painless to fix. You can find a membership application online at <http://www.qsl.net/w8hp>, or you can get one from Murray, KE8UM, at any club meeting. Fill it out and pay the dues, and you are all set. Current membership is \$10 per person per year. A family of 3 or more members living at the same address will find the Family Membership a good deal. The cost is \$25 per year and covers all members in the same household.

Members who receive their *Zero Beat* electronically will still get a paper copy mailed when membership is due for renewal. This way you will know when it's time to sign up again.

Speaking of electronic distribution, if you would like to receive this mailing in a faster way, send your Email address to N8WR@arrl.net, along with a request to add you to the electronic list. This saves the club on printing and postage, and gets the newsletter to your mailbox much faster. You will need to have a (FREE) copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer to be able to read the paper.

September Meeting Will Discuss Direction Finding

The September meeting is this Wednesday at Webster School. i have included directions on how to get there and will also have a map on the last page of this issue.

Our featured speaker is Paul deAthos, AA8OZ, who will discuss Radio Direction Finding and Foxhunting. Foxhunting uses hand-held radios with directional antennas to help you find a hidden transmitter. Many hams enjoy this as a fun weekend activity that gets you out into the fresh air again. Paul's discussion promises to be interesting.

Local Hams Shine in Augst Blackout

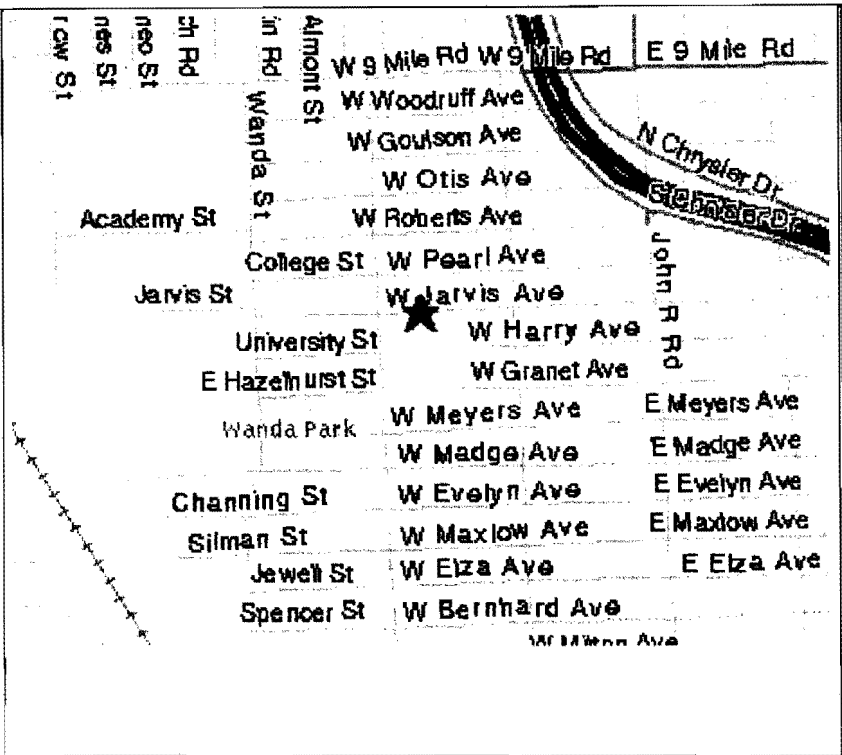
Where were you when the power went off on August 14. Although governments are still trying to pinpoint the exact cause of the blackout that left several states without electrcity for 30 hours, one thing is sure. Local Amateur Radio operators were there when needed.

In Oakland County, according to L. Brooks Patterson, all the cell phones went down in a minute. The land-line phones in the county went down a minute later. But within 30 minutes, local hams were heading out to County offices, Public Safety Departments and Hospitals. We had about 50 hams active at any given time, providing much-needed communications for Oakland County. Over the course of the blackout, nearly 6000 crucial messages were passed back and forth.

between the County EOC and the various field sites.

Oakland County Emergency Coordinator, Joel Goldberg, W8HIU, was extremely proud and pleased with the way Hams in the county stepped up and selflessly volunteered to take shifts averaging 6-8 hours. Although there were more volunteers than there were posts available, Goldberg wants everyone to know that even if they were not assigned, their willingness to help was noted and appreciated. This is what Public Service is all about.

The Map at the right shows the location of Webster School. We will also have Talk-in on the DART 146.64 machine.



**The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 368
Hazel Park, MI 48030**

Please visit our web site: <http://www.qsl.net/w8hp>
Check Mailing Label--is your membership about to expire??

**Club Meeting- Wednesday, September 10 7:30 PM
FIRST CLASS MAIL/ DATED MATERIAL**