



The Zero Beat

The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.qsl.net/w8hp>

November, 2003

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The President's Monthly QRM

Logic, facts and science are not always going to determine the outcome of a public meeting. The lady across the room talking on a cell phone, you see her, the one with tinfoil on her head. She claims that those nasty amateurs are giving her brain damage with their HTs. Her voice is heard just as well as the one from the well educated Ham who is requesting permission to put up an antenna support structure, by a group of people who don't know what is fact or fiction, and may not care. It is important to be well prepared and well represented when any ham wants to

put up an antenna or to get an ordinance passed in a city.

As you may be aware we have been trying to get ordinance passed in the city of Troy that will allow a 75-foot antenna support structure for a licensed ham. In a recent meeting with the mayor of Troy he stated that the ordinance will be finalized and passed at the November 24 council meeting.

We need your help. If you can come to the meeting please come. It starts at 7:30 PM and is located in the city building at 500 West Big Beaver, just east of I-75 on the north side of Big Beaver. If you can, bring a dozen friends; body count is important. You don't have to get up and say anything just be there. If you want to speak let me know. We have a list of topics and background information for you to use (we don't want 30 people getting up and saying the same thing) or you may have an original idea that should be brought out. If you can't come, write a letter or e-mail to the Mayor and the city council members, in favor of an ordinance for a **75 foot antenna support structure** for licensed amateur radio operators. [Addresses and E-mail address of Troy Council members are listed on Page 4. *Editor*]

The big theme that seems to be acceptable to the council is our ability to supply emergency communications. It's a good idea to mention this if you write a letter. While you are in the mood to e-mail or write a letter it's not a bad idea to send a letter to your congressmen and senators about broadband over power lines (BPL) this could cause us a great deal of problems and big money is now supporting it.

This is not the usual banter but I promised that I would keep you informed as to the progress in Troy

and when we needed help. Well now is that time.

See you at the meeting --- bring a friend

. Phil Ode, AA8KR, President

Meeting Minutes: The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club, October 8, 2003

The October 8, 2003 meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by the president, Phil Ode, AA8KR.

After the introductions were made, Mike (WD8S) introduced the evening's speakers. Hank, K8DD, and Stan, AC8W, gave a presentations on DXpeditions focusing primarily on the Team Zone 2 operation of VC2C in 2001.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as read. The Secretary's report as printed in the previous Zero Beat was accepted with a correction. Gary is not the emergency coordinator but is the public information officer.

Jeff, N8WR, had a number of items. The current Technician class will conclude with a test on November 20. In the American Diabetes Newsletter, the amateur community received recognition for their communications support. In addition one of our club members, Carl, KB8BSG, was a member of the 2nd place rookie team in the Bike-a-thon. Our swap will take place on January 18, 2003. Club members are asked to distribute flyers at any swaps they attend before then.

Phil has confirmed all our meeting dates, swap dates and Field Day dates with the school district with the exception of the April meeting. Joe let the membership know that the test sessions will be conducted in the teacher's lounge (there will also be a test session at the USECA swap).

Jim, KC8V FH, reported on the demo of ham radio held at the Upshaw Institute and acknowledged all who helped out. The kids really enjoyed learning about the hobby. In addition, the Upshaw Institute sent a letter expressing their appreciation.

Once again members were reminded about T-shirt and jacket orders.

Gary, K8IKW, had several items for the club. On October 11, there is a Hazardous Weather Class at the EOC. The Bloomfield police department will be having an open house on October 12. Milford is running General & Extra class sessions. He also mentioned the upcoming USECA swap.

The club already has volunteers to handle the holiday party. For the second year in a row, this will be Ralph, K8CAR, and Harry, KC8TEV.

Gerry, K8GT, reminded everyone of the upcoming CQ WW contest at the end of October. In addition, Dee, N8UZE, reminded club members that the CW portion of the November Sweeps will be the first weekend in November. Jeff let the club know that this year, the logs for the Sweeps should be sent to Steve, not Ken.

Steve will be attending the Michigan State Convention. He also listed the upcoming swaps in Lansing, Kalamazoo, and Warren (USECA).

Phil presented some items of general interest. Hazel Park is an ARRL service club. Next was some general information on radios in the car and insurance. In general, auto insurance won't cover them. Home owners insurance may but there are restrictions that affect this such as whether it is "permanently attached to the car" or "exclusively powered by the car." The ARRL insurance is specifically designed to address the needs of amateur radio equipment and is very good.

The Troy antenna ordinance will soon be reported out of the planning commission and presented to the council. As written, it is not acceptable.

Sean, K8KHZ, has an e-mail reflector to allowing mailing to all who sign up for it.

The main item of business this month was a request by the DART for \$2500 in funding from HPARC. This funding is to get the UHF repeater properly set up and to include IRLP capability. Tony, N8VR, discussed the equipment that would be needed to accomplish this. His plan is to get all the equipment, set it up in temporary locations, get it working right and gain experience with and then move it to the permanent sites.

Most of the club members do have UHF capability but only about half use it. After Tony's presentation, a lively discussion on funding ensued. The DART dues are only sufficient to meet operating expenses and are not intended to cover an significant expansion of the system. After considerable discussion, a motion was made for HPARC to fund DART up to \$2500 with the HPARC board controlling the funds and spending. Voting was by show of hands and the motion carried by an overwhelming majority.

Three new members joined the club at this meeting. A total of 62 members attended with the membership prize being won by Don, W8PDI. The meeting was then adjourned.

Dee Flint, N8UZE, Secretary

November Meeting to Demo IRLP

Be sure to attend the November meeting on Wednesday, November 12, at the Webster School gym. The gathering begins at 7 PM< and the meeting will start at 7:30. Our featured presentation will be a demonstration of IRLP on 440 MHz, presented by Jorn, AA8UU, and Paul, N8OZ.

This has been a topic of much discussion, lately, and you will want to be sure and catch the presentation to get all the information.

DART: On Target

These past couple of weeks have been busy on the DART side of the world. We have a lot of projects happening simultaneously, and things are moving forward. The question I'm most asked is "When will the IRLP be working?". Technically, it is working right now, although we don't have a

good signal to the repeater from the actual internet location.

What this means is that you can use it right now, but you'll probably get poor signal reports because the link sounds poor. Our node number is 4502. To access the node, ID on our repeater and say you are connecting to a link. Using your DTMF keys, punch in the 4 digit code for the repeater you want, and unkey. In a few seconds you'll hear the remote repeater respond, and at that point you can start your QSO or call CQ. Be sure to listen first--just like HF, it's good practice to make sure no one else is transmitting simultaneously. There is a complete list of IRLP repeaters at www.IRLP.net. Again, the link may sound noisy right now, but this will change as soon as we move the repeater to the Water Tower.

That brings up the next bit of news. I spoke with the folks at the water tower, and they say our antenna will be up November 13th (of course, I'm not going to hold my breath...). If that date holds up, there is no reason we could not be on the air there that next day--with backup power available.

With the money appropriated from the HPARC, we have bought and are ready to install the new duplexer, a new 100 watt UHF amp, a new 50 amp Astron power supply, and a rack to mount it all in. Murray has ordered the controller for it, and we have already installed the 440 link radio, which connect us to the IRLP.

In addition, Murray has the VHF 100 watt amplifier on the bench. He's working at that while we wait on the repeater council to approve our link frequencies. I'm hoping that can be in place soon. That will bring the DART VHF up from its approximate 18 watts to 70+ watts. I'm also hoping to have John/K8UP, Steve Murphy from Oakland County communications, and Murray troubleshoot the entire VHF site to determine how to clean up the intermittent noise on the VHF. We are a backup to Oakland County, and I want our machine to be ready for the next emergency.

This really is a new way of doing things here at the DART; we now have the money and motivation to do the

things we want to do. I'm looking forward to getting two more VHF remote receive sites up and running as soon as possible. Thanks to Harry, KC8TEV, Al, KA8PEH, Tom, N8TMQ, and Pete, KC8WWE--they are actually assisting us in finding either temporary or permanent locations for our remote receive sites. Our test at Al's place up in Oxford went really well a few weekends ago, and I'm optimistic about getting a site up there running.

I've also met with a director of a location on the East side who actually didn't say no to us yet. It's a long road to getting a site--we have to convince people that we are doing a public service, and we are competing with cellular companies who pay monthly fees.

We need your help if we want to make these remote sites a reality. Harry, Al, Tom, and Pete are doing their part, but we need you, too.

If you are retired, I need you to help me contact people and do follow-up calls to sites. We don't expect you to move heavy stuff, but we are looking for a few good talkers. A lot of folks find it easy to criticize, but when it comes to helping, things get pretty quiet. One person I'd especially like to thank is John, AA8UU, who has been doing the majority of the work on making this IRLP work; we both can't wait until it is running at 100%.

If you are unwilling or unable to help us, the easiest way to support us is pay your dues to the DART. We hope you find it the friendliest repeater around.

John/AA8UU and Paul/AA8OZ will be doing a demo of the IRLP (internet relay linking protocol) at the November meeting. Our plan is to have the owners of other nodes available at their repeaters, ready to answer your questions. Remember, we can now link worldwide!

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.

Nov. 02	AA8UU	John	#1821
Nov. 09	N8HFM	Bill	#1822
Nov. 16	AD8M	Ken	#1823
Nov. 23	N8QVS	Bill #2	#1824
Dec. 07	AA8KR	Phil	#1825
Dec. 14	N8TMQ	Tom	#1826
Dec. 21	AA8UU	John	#1827
Dec. 28	N8HFM	Bill	#1828
Jan. 04	AD8M	Ken	#1829

November Sweepstakes is Here!

Well, November is here again, and so come the ARRL November Sweeps. The sweepstakes are two separate HF contests, one for CW and one for SSB, separated by two weeks. The First weekend in November is always the CW portion of the contest, and SSB follows two weekends later. Loosely translated, that means there is still time to fire up your rig and participate in the SSB 'test.

This is one of several contests annually that allows club competition. To participate, you do your normal thing as a single- or multi-op station. Nothing changes there. What is different is that you list your club affiliation with Hazel Park

(Michigan) ARC on the Summary Sheet. Print off an extra copy of the sheet and send it to Sever Gladstein, WD9FTH, or E-mail it to his e-mail address listed on the first page of every *Zero Beat*.

Steve will submit all the log summaries to the ARRL for credit, and if you scored 100 contacts or more, the club will buy your Sweepstakes pin. If you made a "Clean Sweep", the club will buy your mug, as well.

Sweepstakes awards will be presented at the June Banquet, which gives you another reason to attend (*as if great food, good company, prize drawings, and the chance to see N8WR win another radio weren't enough incentive!!!*)

Words To Ponder

While helping to administer License Exams at the USECA Swap last month, I came across this interesting document, which I would like to share with the club membership

:

Ten Ways to Kill Any Organization

1. Don't participate beyond paying your dues. Let others handle things, then complain that members have no voice in management
2. Decline all committee appointments and offices, then offer critical advice on how things should be done.
3. If appointed to a committee, don't work, then complain that the organization has stagnated.
4. If you attend meetings, Don't initiate new ideas, then play 'Devil's Advocate' to those submitted by others.
5. Don't rush to pay your dues; they're too high anyway. Then complain about poor management.
6. Don't encourage others to become members, then complain that membership is not growing.
7. Don't read the newsletter or other communications, they're not important, then complain that you're not being kept informed.
8. Don't volunteer your talents, then complain that you're never asked and never appreciated.
9. Have faith in no one and nothing. Don't take any chances on untried procedures. Let someone else put

their reputation on the line, then be sure to enjoy the benefits that result from another's leap of faith.

10. If, by chance, the organization grows despite your lack of contributions, grasp every opportunity to tell the younger members how tough it was, and how hard you worked in the "old days" to bring the group to its present level of success.

Jeff Albrecht, N8WR

Congratulations to Newest 7Technicians in HPARC

Congratulations to members of the Fall Technician Theory class. The following three students have passed their examinations and will be continuing to advance as they join our ranks. Please congratulate Dennis Fleischer, KC8YNM (Passed at USECA), Denise Myles and John Lucro. (Both passed exams on November 6, callsigns pending) The rest of the class will take (and pass!) their exams on Thursday, November 20.

The next Technician Class will begin in April of 2004, in Southfield.

Contact Addressed Information for Troy City Council Members

Christina Broomfield	talk2cristina@aol.com
Dave Lambert (mayor pro tem)	dave@lambert.net
David Eisenbacher	david@eisenbacher.org
Jeanne Stine	stinejm@wwnet.net
Martin Howrylak	Mfhowryl@umich.edu
Matt Pryor (mayor)	matt@mattpryor.org
Robin Beltramini	rbeltram@hotmail.com

If you prefer to send your comments via standard US Postal System Mail, please mail to :

Troy City Hall
500 W, Big Beaver
Troy MI 48084

IMPORTANT!!! All comments must be sent to arrive well in advance of the

Holiday Party Set for December

This year's HPARC December Meeting and Holiday Party will take place on Wednesday, December 10, 2003, beginning at 7:30 PM. We will meet at Webster Elementary, and will enjoy a fine meal arranged by our Holiday Chairs, Ralph, K8CAR, and Harry, KC8TEV.

There will be prize drawings in addition to the festivities, so be sure to attend. In order to participate in the feast, or to be eligible for the prizes,

you must bring an unwrapped toy for donation to charity, or a cash donation to the charity.

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, November 12 7:30 PM
at WEBSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

FIRST CLASS MAIL / DATED MATERIAL.