

# The Zero Beat

The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

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

February, 2004

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## The President's Monthly QRM

This year's swap is over and the numbers are in. We had hoped that the receipts would beat the local economy, but they didn't; we experienced a drop in income from the swap. The good news is that all of the vendors that I talked to seemed happy with their sales so they will be back again next year. This will ensure that we will have a good swap next year; of course the "good" is based on the overall economy.

Since we have a little less income, the board explored ways of lowering the amount of money that the club

needs during the year. We concluded that by sending the *Zero Beat* by email, and only using snail mail for those who request it, our problem is solved. So starting in the fall we will be emailing out the *Zero Beat* to all club members, unless we have a specific request to use the US Postal service instead. With this in mind it would be very beneficial for you to make sure that Murray, KE8UM, has your correct email address. This would also be a good time to use the ARRL's forwarding service if you are a ARRL member. This is a no cost service of the league that allows you to keep the same email address even if you change IP providers. Kind of like taking your phone number with you when you change cell phone companies.

The newsletter will be sent out as a pdf file so you will need to have Adobe reader installed on your computer. This is a free download from the net so it should not be a problem for anyone. If you must have the *Zero Beat*, in hard copy, let Murray KE8UM know, in writing, or you will not get it. While we are on the topic of money, I would like to point out that entry into the swap had a \$5.00 price to it, and that this was required from vendors and club members. So if you came in without paying as some of the club members did, please correct this by giving the money to Murray KE8UM at the club meeting. Just let him know what it is for. This should have been announced before the swap so that all club members were aware of the requirement.

We have a lot of activities coming up and will need many volunteers to organize, run and work at them. I would like to see some of the newer hams and those who have never done it before, taking on some of these projects. Don't worry if you don't

know how to do the job, we will help you and have someone working with you, until you are comfortable with it. Some of the areas we are looking for people are, radio operators for walks, races, siren testing and bike-a-thons, net control operator for the siren testing, a banquet chairman, and swap chairman, as well as election committee members. These are some of the activities that need you help, so give it some thought, join in and have a great time.

In our dealings with Troy we learned that a few letters mean a lot to our elected officials. They put an amazing amount of weight on a letter or email. Keep this in mind and keep writing and email your representatives on such subjects as frequency protection and the latest threat Broad Band Over Power lines (BPL). Remember the last one hanging onto the raft gets in, so don't just send one letter and forget it remind them that we are watching, every few months. Thanks just a reminder.

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

*Phil Ode, AA8KR, President*

Remember! You need to get your current Email to me or to Murry so we have a valid Email address to send this newsletter. We will use postal mail when necessary, but this increases club expenses, and receiving the *Zero Beat* via Email will help avoid the need to increase membership dues.

*Jeff, N8WR*

## Meeting Minutes, January 14, 2004, the hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

The January 14, 2004 meeting of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club was held at Jimi's Restaurant due to a weather closing of the Webster Elementary School. Bill, N8QVS, graciously took minutes for this

meeting as the weather also prevented the attendance of many members from outlying areas, including the club secretary, N8UZE.

The meeting included a discussion about Anderson Power connectors. Troy city council meeting tapes are available for members to borrow but they must be returned.

The major item of business for this meeting was preparation for the January 19th swap. Jeff solicited help on setup starting at noon on January 18th and unloading of tables. Carl, KB8BSG, had volunteered to handle the door assignments and ticket sales at the doors.

George, K8GEO, let the club know that USECA would be having a Pasta Social on January 26th. It is a fund raiser to help fight BPL.

Members were notified that there would be a VE test session on January 27th.

There is a General upgrade class starting on Thursday, January 29th.

A chairman for the annual banquet is being sought as well as volunteers for the Oak Apple Run.

Despite the weather, the guest speaker was in attendance and made his presentation on the Civil Air Patrol. The CAP website is [www.cap.gov](http://www.cap.gov)

Tony, N8VR, reported on the DART. The UHF machine is running well.

Only 20 club members attended the January 14, 2004 meeting. Bruce, AB8CI, won the membership prize.

*Dee Flint, N8UZE, Secretary*

#### **EDITORIAL: ARRL Petitions FCC to Lower the Bar Again**

*The following is an editorial opinion of the Editor of the Zero Beat, and is not necessarily the opinion of the HPARC Board. Comments are welcome!*

If you go to the ARRL web page [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org), there is often a headline at the top of the page, either explaining what the League is up to, or explaining something of great general interest to the Amateur Radio Community at large. I check this page several times a week, to catch the latest news. Imagine my surprise and sadness to see that the ARRL feels it necessary to make it even easier to pass examinations that

are already fairly simple, provided you have taken any time at all to study for a license.

The latest scheme involves even a more drastic revisitation of the Restructuring proposal that the FCC passed on to us in the Spring of 2000. Appropriately, the changes took place on or near April Fool's Day. At that time, the FCC abolished the Novice and Advanced class licenses, and made Morse Code proficiency a requirement for the General and Extra Class levels, but only at 5 words per minute.

The League thinks we haven't gone far enough in lowering our standards. They now propose the following: A *new* Novice license, upgrading of all Technician Class operators to General Class (without even having passed either the Code or Theory tests for General), and only requiring Code for the Extra Class License.

What's next? Will this become too difficult in another five years? Will we just allow anyone on the Amateur bands, without demonstrating *any* skills or knowledge whatsoever? Removal of licensing requirements made the 11-meter Citizens' Band the quagmire it is today. Now the ARRL wants to move us further in that direction, too.

Look at the article and their sad justifications. The one I find most ridiculous is the claim that licensees were complaining that the materials they were studying to pass the license exams had little bearing on their actual operations, once licensed. I have a little news for you: One of the three members of the Question Pool Committee is from the ARRL!!! If the questions aren't reflecting what an operator needs to know...whose fault is it?

The list goes on and on. My opinion is that the League is caving in to pressure. They need to increase membership, and consequently, income. Another financial consideration is advertising revenue. Who are the big-buck advertisers in *QST* every month? None other than Kenwood, Yaesu, Icom, Alinco and TenTec. All of these companies have a vested interest in more people getting HF privileges, earned or not. And

Kenwood has been one of the biggest advocates of Dumbing Down the requirements since before the 2000 revisions.

After reading this abominable proposal from our "advocates of Amateur Radio" at the League, I regretted having become a Life Member years ago. I no longer pay dues, so I can't stop sending them in as a protest. But I can inform other Hams and other ARRL members that they are being done a disservice by their leadership. The time is now to let your ARRL know that we are intelligent enough to realize what is happening, and that we don't want any part of it. Write your Division and Section managers, listed on the ARRL site, or in *QST*. Also send a copy to President Jim Haynie and Executive Vice President Dave Sumner.

I know I'll be doing that this week.

*Jeff Albrecht, N8WR*

#### **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

**Thursday** General Theory/ Code class in room 28, Webster Elementary, 7-9 PM

**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)** Rocking Chair Net 145.63 FM Simplex 8:00 PM Local Time

**Nightly** SE Michigan Traffic Net 8:00PM Local time 145.33 (-)

#### **Time to Get Those Hamvention Reservations in!!!**

Steve Gladstein is now accepting reservations for hotel rooms during Dayton Hamvention. Hamvention begins on Friday, May 14, and ends on Sunday May 16. Rooms at the Troy, OH Hampton Inn off I-75 exit 74 (same as last year) are available at the HPARC rate of \$89/night (all taxes included) for the evenings of

Thursday, May 13 through Saturday, May 15. 10 non-smoking and 6 smoking rooms are available. Please bring cash or checkbook to the HPARC meetings, or email [steve.gladstein@us.bosch.com](mailto:steve.gladstein@us.bosch.com) and request a Dayton room reservation form. Steve will email you the form, and can be returned via US Postal Service with a check or money order. Contact Steve with any questions via email or by phone M-F during the day at (248) 848-2333 or evenings and weekends at (248) 737-9393

**Steven Gladstein, WD9FTH**

**New Volunteers Sought to Chair Events Next Year**

The club depends greatly on its members to step up and assume leadership roles. Many of the benefits of being a member of HPARC come to us through the efforts of volunteer members, who step up to take on a project that needs doing.

This year, we are in need of the following positions to be filled: First of all, we need a Net Control operator for the monthly Tornado Siren Tests held on the DART sub-net. Second, we are in need of a new chair for the end-of-the-year Club Banquet. Lastly, I am stepping down as chair of the Swap & Shop, and will be needing someone to take my place.

Don't worry if you haven't done something like these jobs before. The current Chair of the event will be there to assist you and explain how things have been done in the past. Sometimes it's just time to move on, and let someone new try his or her hand at doing it. Who knows...you could be responsible for making a great activity even better!

**Net Control List 2003-2004 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.

Feb 01 K8UP John #1834  
 Feb 08 AA8UU John #1835  
 Feb 15 KA8DMR Marsha #1836  
 Feb 22 N8QVS Bill#2 #1837  
 Feb 29 KC8TEV Harry #1838  
 Mar 07 AA8UU John #1839  
 Mar 14 K8UP John #1840  
 Mar 21 AD8M Ken #1841

Mar 28 KC8TWO Mark #1842  
 Apr 4 AA8UU John #1843  
 Apr 11 KC8TWO Mark #1844  
 Apr 18 K8UP John #1845  
 Apr 25 KC8TEV Harry #1846

**February Meeting to Feature K8KHZ and Logbook of the World**

Don't miss the HPARC meeting on Wednesday, February 11 at Webster Elementary School, beginning at 7:30. Our featured speaker will be Sean Flemming, K8KHZ, who will be discussing the *Logbook of the World* project, and how to make it work for you.

As usual, we will begin the gathering at 7 PM, and the meeting will include the usual treats and prizes, as well as a chance to socialize, before and after the talk.

**Technician Classes to Resume on April 15**

As Spring comes every year, so does another Technician License class. This term's classes will be held on Thursday evenings, from 7-9 PM, in the City of Southfield. If you know someone who would like to get a first license, have him or her contact Jeff Albrecht, N8WR@comcast.net, or call 248-642-3608, for details.

If any currently-licensed club members would care to assist with teaching the classes, please let me know, too.

**DART IRLP--Internet Repeater Linking Project**

Using the IRLP.

It's great to hear so many people using the IRLP on 440. Just so everyone knows how it works, here are some simple instructions.

*\*To access the IRLP, ID ("This is AA8UU accessing the IRLP").*

*\*Enter remote repeater/reflector 4 digit code on DTMF keypad while keying.*

*\*Allow 1 or 2 seconds after keying, before speaking. Listen!*

*\*To disconnect, enter 73 on DTMF keypad while keying. ID.*

Try: Reflectors 9250/Las Vegas, 9070/Alaska, 9450/Dallas

Nodes: 3592/Nome, 5600/London, 8200 Tokyo, 1000 Vancouver

*Nodes are other repeaters just like our 440 machine; reflectors allow multiple nodes to be connected simultaneously.*

For complete node list/info, see [www.irlp.net](http://www.irlp.net)

Some basic rules:

Listen before transmitting, especially when connected to a reflector. Key, wait one or 2 seconds, then begin speaking--the transmission delay may clip your first word if you don't.

ID as required, and add your location (This is W8PDI near Detroit, Michigan). Sometimes other people will jump in to talk to you if they know where you are located.

Do not carry on long local conversations when connected to other repeaters or a reflector--you may be tying up a lot of other machines, and not allowing others to access them.

Before disconnecting (73), ask if anyone else wants to use the link.

I hope everyone enjoys the new capabilities of the 440, and make sure you talk it up to others!

Update: Backup power. Having our repeaters work in an emergency is a big deal to me. I do not want to have another failure like last summer. The 440 is now ready with a backup battery (thanks Jeff!) that will run it on low power for several hours. Unfortunately, the 2 meter, which should have emergency power, is still without it. We need to develop a plan for this machine, even if it means buying a small generator that we drag out to the site to power it. Let someone on the DART Board know your thoughts or suggestions on this.

Our repeater frequency is 443.225 (+5MHz), with a 107.2 PL. Our 4 digit node number is 4502; give this number out to others who are trying to call you.

We are also selling a limited number of DART caps; help support the DART by buying one at the HPARC club meeting.

**Tony Gallucci**  
[tonyg@metrotelvc.com](mailto:tonyg@metrotelvc.com)

**2004 SKYWARN CLASS SCHEDULE**

We will offer ONE class, with BOTH Basic and Advanced material. This allows us to reach as many spotters as possible in a short amount of time. This class will contain all of the material that was a part of the basic class as well as the essential material that was presented in the advanced training. Due to the added material, the class will likely add an extra 15 minutes than in the past years. More concern, more spotters, more eyes are needed. Lend us yours - learn SKYWARN!

The Oakland County Office of Emergency Response & Preparedness coordinates this program. Limited space is available, so make your reservations now!

Please call (248) 858-5300 to register  
or  
Send an email to: [maciasg@co.oakland.mi.us](mailto:maciasg@co.oakland.mi.us)

Locations:

<sup>1</sup>Oakland County Emergency Response & Preparedness, Information Technology Auditorium, Campus Drive South, (West of Telegraph, behind the Oakland County Farmers Market) March 27: 10 Am to 12:15, OR 1-3:15 PM. April 7, 7:30-9:45 PM

<sup>2</sup>Covert Center, 1150 Scott Lake Road, Waterford, (across from Waterford Mott High School) April 6, 7:30-9:45 PM

<sup>3</sup>Groveland Township Fire Department, 14645 Dixie Highway @ Grange Hall Road April 15, 7-9:15 PM

<sup>4</sup>Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen, In Library/Marcotte Room (south side of Civic Center Complex) April 22, 7-9:15 PM

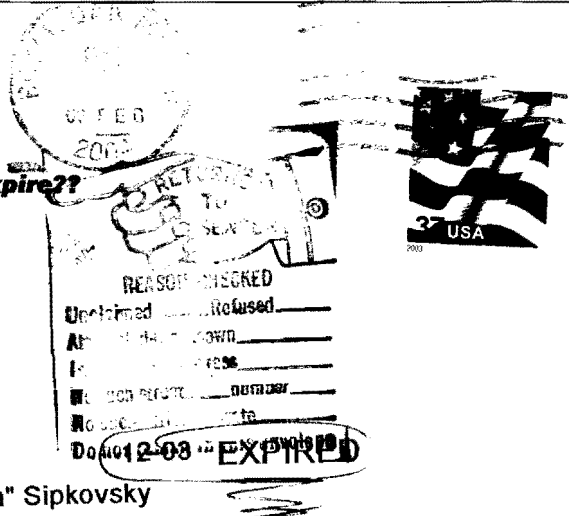
**The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club**

**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??**



**KC8LIT**

Patricia A. "Tricia" Sipkovsky  
19106 Woodmont St.  
Harper Woods MI 48225

**Club Meeting-Wednesday,February 11 7:30 PM**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL/ DATED MATERIAL**

