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The President's Monthly QRM

Amateur radio is a changing hobby (service). Today, contest logging is much easier than with the older paper dupe sheets, yet participation in contest like November sweeps is waning. By the way, if you did participate in this years November sweeps, make sure that you get a copy of you logs to Steve N8FH, to get your pins or cups.

The Zero Beat

The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

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

December, 2004

We no longer need the low bands to talk around the world; we can do it on IRLP, using an HT if desired. Have you given it a try on our 440 repeater, just to see if it would work? Radios have become more complex to operate. With embedded computer chips you now need a good size manual to make them communicate. Today's radios have so many knobs and programmable functions that they are a real challenge to operate. I guess that is one of the tradeoffs, for not needing dupe sheets. Not to long ago we used to build a radio from our junk boxes or put together a kit to get on the air. Today the new radios are so complex and tightly packed that we take them out of the box, read the manual then put them on the air, and if they break we send them to the factory to have them fixed. Times are changing and interests and challenges are different, not necessarily any better or any worse just different.

We all know that Morse code is going away; we know that there are those that love the idea and those that hate it. The thing that we have in common is that we have no control over it. Using code verses the newer digital modes is sort of like the difference between playing a violin and playing a CD. A lot more of us can play good music on a CD then on a violin, but there will always be violin players around.

As the hobby changes so must the club; it is the responsibility of club members to keep the board advised as to what their interests are. If the board doesn't know what the membership wants to do, they can't make it happen. So give it some thought and make yourself heard. See you at the Christmas party (Chanukah,

or holiday if you wish), and seasons greetings and have a good time

Phil Ode, AA8KR, President

Meeting Minute, The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club, November 10, 2004

Meeting was called to order by Phil, AA8KR, at 7:30PM.

Richard, N8MQU, asked all members to renew their ARRL membership through the club so that we will receive a small portion back from ARRL. This applies to new members and renewals.

Sean, K8KHZ, gave a presentation about NTS traffic handling. Good job.

Steven, N8FH, reminded everyone to new members and visitors.

Phil talked about the changes to the bylaws. Sean made a motion to accept the changes and was approved by the membership.

The members also voted to make donations to Handi Hams for the Christmas party.

The city of Troy is asking for amateur operators to use their station and make recommendations for improvements. Jeff, N8WR, volunteered to run the station for the ARRL Phone Sweeps.

It was brought to our attention that the club will have its 40th anniversary next year. It was suggested that we could a special event station.

Tony, N8VR, opened the Dart meeting with a membership drive. Nominations were open for board members. John and Murray were elected.

Willie Neal, KC8FNQ, Secretary

DART: Moving Ahead

Notice how the both sides of the DART start sounding better as the leaves fall? This is especially true of

the UHF machine. I drive down to Dearborn several times a week, and this summer I was not able to hit the machine much South of I-96. Now that it's Fall, I've no problem getting into from all over!

The power amp for the VHF took a dive a couple weeks ago, but I haven't heard any complaints about it (other than the machine being down the day it happened).

This past Sunday was the MARC meeting. MARC--the Michigan Area Repeater Council--is the group that decides who/what gets frequencies and coordination. They are volunteers, and we need to go through them to keep both our repeaters and link frequencies in compliance with those around us.

Last year, in April, we went to them to get link frequencies for our remote receive sites. We never heard back from them despite several attempts to call and email the members. We did manage to get approval for one link (one that had been applied for a few years ago), but never could get an answer to the other 3 links we were requesting.

Murray had an informal conversation with one board member, and was told to "just pick one and use it." Murray thought the guy wasn't being serious, and we kept waiting for an official reply. We never got one. John, AA8UU, was not content to wait around any longer, and finally got the President of MARC to reply back to one of his many emails. The reply back: "Pick a frequency--if its open, use it."

Well, heck, what's the point of having a coordination council if you can just pick any frequency?! This really amazes me; we've waited over a year to do this right, and now I realize that we could have just done whatever we wanted and been finished with it. John has been listening to a range of frequencies, and has a couple in mind (don't bother to ask him what they are). If it works out, we will try to have Tom/N8TMQ's house back online for a second remote receive site in the next few months.

We are still learning about the voter. This is the mysterious black box which decides what signal to

rebroadcast. Its operation is beyond my comprehension at this point. Basically it compares the received signals coming in, but how? How does it compare a locally received VHF signal with a retransmitted VHF signal received and retransmitted via UHF from the remote site? As we learned over the summer, you can have a strong bad signal coming in, and it will pick it. We are all still getting up to speed on this.

The other issue John/K8UP has brought up is de-sensing. When we brought the power level up at the main site, we saw the sensitivity of the main receive site decrease. The main site is shouting so loud it cannot hear. John's suggestion has been to turn off the local receive at the main site, boost the power to the max, and use only remote receive sites to relay the signal back to the main site.

This is a great idea, but you have to have remote receive sites available. Judging from the response (or lack thereof) I've gotten from most DART/HPARC members, there must not be a lot of interest in finding remote receive sites. So far only Mike/N8FI, and Pete/KC8WWE have made suggestions, but neither has worked out. Harry/KC8TVE was serious about helping us, but someone has to step in and take his place. We cannot keep the site at Tom's house for any great period of time--it's not fair to Tom, and not the best location either.

As I write this, I don't even know who from the DART was able to make it to the MARC meeting. What I do know is it is going to take more effort to get the frequencies and equipment built up. So I need to ask: Do we want remote receive sites or not? Please let us here at the DART board know you what you think.

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

Friday Morning Breakfast at The sAvenue, 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 146.76 (-) beginning at 10:15 PM.

TOWER DAY AT KE8UM's Saturday, October 16, 2004

The day began with a message from Phil, AA8KR, wanting to know what time to be there. I heard it at 12:30am on my answering machine.

I got up at 8 AM and went to breakfast with the buddies and pals at Jimi's restaurant in Royal Oak. As it was raining, I thought it was off for the day. At the end of breakfast several actually asked for directions and said call later if you need me, so I went to my vehicle and got the maps. My brother Jim then said, "Let's go to your house and see what we can do."

We looked it over and tilted the forty feet of tower back down to ground that I had raised by myself. About that time Dot showed up to help and stayed for the whole job and did everything. The three of us put the last of the tower together and mounted the SteppIR beam and the Ringo dual band antennas. We then ran, taped and tied all the cables and the job was complete except for raising the tower. It took two months to get the beam.

We could see patches of blue sky so at the urging of Dot and Jim I started dialing phone numbers from the club roster. Some phones were answered by machines and some by real people. The real people came and I am sure the answering machine owners would have come if they had been home.

We had two people on the roof with rope and several on the ground to raise the tower. It was just like Field Day. When the last bolt was in, several people had to leave (must have been sweetest day, oops!) Next I hooked up the rotor and: nothing! About that time, Dot and Jim had to

leave and left me to figure it out. Out came the meter and it was determined the rotor cable was open. The cable looked okay so a tower climb was going to be needed. About that time it poured rain outside.

Two hours later the rain had stopped and the breezes had blown the water off the tower rungs. Well, I could not stand it, and there was no one around to stop me, so on went the safety belt and up I went. When I touched the rotor plug, it fell right into my hand. I reconnected the plug and headed to the ground.

Yea! It works. This was good because I heard a neighbor say when I was up the tower. "It looks like it will stay up okay as he trusts it enough to climb it" CQ DX, CQ DX, CQ DX

A big thank you to those that could make it: K8ABZ Jim, W8DOT Dot, AA8KR Phil, N8SML Murph, N8VR Tony and John AA8UU.

A big thank you to those that helped change the tower ordnance in Troy, MI especially Phil, AA8KR.

Never give up!

Murray KE8UM

Net Control List 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.

Dec 5 KA8DMR Marsha #1877

Dec 12 AA8UU John #1878

Dec 26 N8HFM Bill #1879

Jan 2 (2005) AD8M Ken #1880

Bill is in the process of putting together a Net Control list for 2005 and needs one or two more operators to step up and pitch in. With a pool of Net Control Stations of a reasonable size, each station will only have to run once every 5-6 weeks, so please contact Bill Ketel to sign up.

Changes in the Newsletter

This will be my last issue publishing the *Zero Beat*. As you may recall, I have been doing so since

around 1998, and have only missed one or two issues during that time, either due to health reasons or computer malfunctions. I have enjoyed being a part of the active volunteer core of the club, but other obligations on my time will prevent me from doing this job for at least the rest of this year.

For the Winter Semester, I will be taking a class on Wednesday evenings, so I will not even be able to attend club meetings. I know... Some of you will be happy about this, as I will not be there to win any radios! Personally, I will miss going to the meetings, and seeing old and new friends. Still, in the words of Arnold, "I'll be back!"

Jim has purged the mailing list of members who have not renewed for some time, so some of you may hear from them, asking what happened to the *Zero Beat*. Please remind them that they have to be paid members to receive the newsletter, and will have to pony up the ten bucks at a meeting!

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me with the paper, and especially those who have contributed articles or pieces for inclusion in the pages. Without you, this job would have been much harder.

I believe that we have found a volunteer to take over the monthly duties of publishing the club newsletter. Please extend the same courtesy and friendship to the new editor that you have given me over the years. And thanks for your help, understanding and friendship! 73 for now...

Jeff Albrecht, N8WR

December Meeting: Mostly Our Annual Christmas Party

It's that time of year again. December. The month where we all celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa. We gather with friends and family and celebrate what makes our lives so good. WE do the same thing here at HPARC at our December meeting.

The meeting includes a small business meeting, and Steve, N8FH, will be collecting Summary Sheets from those of us who participated in

November Sweepstakes. Be sure to get your sheet to Steve, so he can order pins and/or mugs for those who made at least 100 contacts, or had a clean sweep!

The food for our dinner will be provided by the club, and Ralph, K8CAR, has once again graciously consented to handle the festivities and amass the prizes. But there is a catch...

In order to get your meal, or to be eligible for the prize drawings, you have to bring a cash donation (or check) to Handi Hams. Let your heart be your guide to the size of the gift. It could be anything you choose to give, from a dollar on up! If you prefer to remain anonymous, you can enclose your gift in an envelope, or just present it when you enter the meeting. No donation, no food or prizes! So don't forget! The gathering begins at 7 PM at Hoover School, and as usual, the official meeting will take place beginning at 7:30.

Don't Forget the HPARC Swap & Shop in January!!!

The New Year brings the annual HPARC Swap. This year's swap chair, Sean Fleming, K8KHZ, would like to remind everyone that you should save two dates for the Swap: Saturday, January 15 is the day for setup. Normally, we meet for breakfast at Jimi's that morning, and then caravan over to Hazel Park High School to set up the tables and such. With good member participation, this takes around 2 hours.

Sunday brings the main event, and it is critical for all club members to help out in one way or another. You can help by offering your services as a Talk-in station, Ticket Seller, or you can help with tear-down and cleanup afterwards.

This is the club's only fundraiser in the year, and keeps your dues at an affordable level, so please be sure to offer your help. We will have signup sheets available, so you can volunteer a block of time to do the job of your choosing. But please help in some way! We can't do it alone!

FCC Denies AM, SSB Bandwidth Petition

The FCC has turned down a Petition for Rule Making that sought to establish specific bandwidth standards for full-carrier AM and SSB Amateur Radio emissions. Michael Lonneke, W0YR, and Melvin Ladisky, W6FDR, filed the petition, designated RM-10740, on May 27, 2003.

The FCC said a majority of the approximately 160 members of the amateur community who commented on the petition opposed the concept. "We conclude that petitioners' request for an amendment of our rules is inconsistent with the Commission's objective of encouraging the experimental aspects of the Amateur Radio service," wrote Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division Chief Michael J. Wilhelm, WS6BR. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released the Order November 24.

"The petition also fails to demonstrate that a deviation from the

Commission's longstanding practice of allowing operating flexibility within the Amateur Service community is either warranted or necessary." Lonneke and Ladisky had asked the FCC to "remove the ambiguity" in Part 97--specifically §97.307(a) and (b)--and they referenced Enforcement Bureau letters sent to amateurs alleging overly wide SSB signals--sometimes called "Enhanced Single Sideband." Additionally, they said, some contesters purposely adjust their transmitters to exceed what they called "the de facto SSB signal width of approximately 3 kHz" to gain "elbow room" during contests.

On HF frequencies below 28.8 MHz, the petition recommended a maximum 2.8 kHz bandwidth SSB (J3E) emissions and a maximum 5.6 kHz bandwidth for AM (A3E) emissions. Asserting that most radio amateurs "operate in a manner consistent with the basic purpose of the Amateur Service," the FCC said its existing rules are "adequate to address any noncompliant practices by amateur operators."

Current FCC rules require that amateur transmissions not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice," and that emissions outside the necessary bandwidth not interfere with operations on adjacent frequencies.

The FCC also said the petitioners failed to show that there is "a particular problem" with stations using AM. The Order said the FCC's Enforcement Bureau will continue to monitor through its complaint process "nonconforming activities" of operators who fail to abide by its rules. "In instances of willful and malicious interference, the Enforcement Bureau will not hesitate to take appropriate action," Wilhelm pledged.

From the ARRL Letter

**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??

**VE Testing Tuesday 12/07 at Oak Park
Club Meeting- Wednesday, December 8, 7:30 PM**

FIRST CLASS MAIL--Dated Material