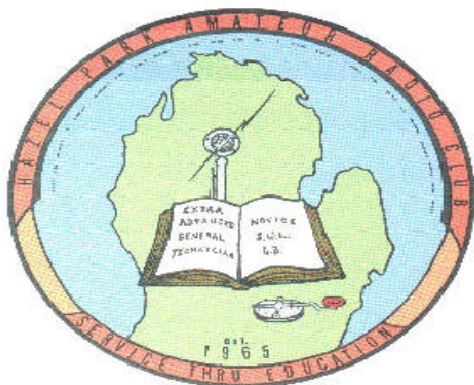


The Zero Beat



The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.qsl.net/w8hp>

President's Monthly ORM

Monday, October 10, 2005

Those on the DART committee have met with the HPARC board and the proposal for the club is ready. A vote will be held at the October meeting to finalize the transition. If you have a particular interest in the melding of the DART into the HPARC be there and let your views be known. The October meeting will be held on the Third Wednesday of the month again, so mark your calendars; there won't be anyone there to meet with on the second Wednesday. In the month of November the meeting will be held on the regular second Wednesday of the month, just to get you used to it, for the shift back to the third week in December again. Sorry there is nothing we can do about it, just stay on the ball check into the Sunday night 2 meter net to keep up with the changes. The world is a dynamic place now and we have to change with the times just to hold our place. November is sweeps month and the club will purchase pins and mugs for those that turn in a HPARC club score to the board. You can participate in the cw contest the phone contest or both. If you work with someone both will get the appropriate award, this can make the contest more fun and will help those new to contesting get their feet wet. It is a lot of fun and I encourage everyone to at least give it a try.

We are still looking for someone to act as backup for the Zero Beat editor. If you would like to help out, or know someone that you think would be a good editor please let someone on the board know. This is an important link in getting information out to club members we don't want to see it broken.

See you at the meeting and remember bring a friend,

Phil AA8KR

MEETING DATE CHANGE FOR OCTOBER!

The meeting in October will also be on the third Wednesday (October 19, 2005). The September meeting was changed to the third Wednesday because of a conflict with another school activity. As you may remember, at one meeting last year, we had to meet in the media room because the gym was double booked and we came in second. Just because we have been

Officers and Volunteers

- **President:** Phil Ode, AA8KR
AA8KR@arrl.net, 248-641-9723
- **1st Vice President:** Jim Poehlman, K8ABZ
K8ABZ@arrl.net, 248-398-0086
- **2nd Vice President:** Jeff Albrecht, N8WR
N8WR@arrl.net
- **Secretary:** Willie Neal, KC8FNQ
Slcwillie1@ameritech.net, 248-557-3475
- **Treasurer:** Richard Dzick, N8MQU
N8MQU@arrl.net, 586-268-4671
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- **Editor:** Keith McKenzie, KD8AWZ
KD8AWZ@arrl.net, 586-777-6751

Hazel Park HPARC/DART Sunday Evening Net

The following is a list of stations that 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.

Oct 3	K8KHZ	Sean	1921
10	KA8DMR	Marsha	1922
17	KC8FNQ	Willie	1923
24	KC8TGW	Alex	1924
31	K8BSG	Carl	1925

meeting in Hoovers gym for thirty some years we cannot expect to always have it for our meetings. The October date is a little different. It was moved to allow our Jewish members the ability to properly prepare for Yom Kippur. So with respect we have moved this date as well.

ARRL Dues

Is it getting near time to renew your ARRL dues? If so, renew through HPARC! When you renew through the club, you win, HPARC wins, and ARRL knows you are involved. Contact Richard, N8MQU, but remember to do it early – we don't want you to lose any of the fantastic benefits that membership in ARRL & HPARC brings you!

From our new 2nd VP

From the Veep's Shack

First of all, I want to remind everyone that our November meeting will take place one week later than normal. Instead of Wednesday, October 12, remember to show up on the 19th at Hoover Elementary at 7:30 PM. Along with the usual festivities, we will have two guest speakers: **Neil Sablatzky** K8IT, and Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, who are running (respectively) for the offices of Division Director and Vice Director for the ARRL Great Lakes Division. Each of these two gentlemen has been involved in volunteer leadership positions within the ARRL and with their respective clubs for a number of years, and feel that they could offer much to the ARRL membership if they were elected to represent our interests.

Remember that the direction of the League is in the hands of the members, so it is incumbent upon those of us who are members to choose carefully who will represent us for the next three years to the ARRL Board. You should be receiving your ballots very soon in the mail (if you are a voting member) and you should look over carefully what all the candidates have to say.

Additionally, I would like to thank our outgoing Vice Director, Richard Mondro (K4FQT NEW CALL!), who will be retiring and moving south to enjoy his retirement years in Florida with his wife Sandy, KG8HM. Our best wishes and thanks to both of them!

Remember that November Sweepstakes will be here very soon. The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club would like you to consider participating and submitting your score as part of a group score for the club. You still get credit for your hard contest work, but your score will also be added to the club's tally as we compete with other clubs around the country. All you need to do is mail an extra copy of your Contest Summary Sheet to me and I will do the rest. Even better, if you do this, and make 100 contacts, the club

will buy your Sweepstakes pin(s) for you. If you make the difficult Clean Sweep, we will also buy your Clean Sweep mug for you. Both of these prizes will be presented to you at next year's HPARC Banquet in May.

There are two separate contests: CW and Phone. The CW contest will be the weekend of November 5-7, and the Phone contest will take place two weeks later, on the weekend of November 19-21. All the rules are published in QST, or you can find them for downloading and printing at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/novss.html>. Be sure to get your logs for the CW contest to me no later than November 30, and the logs for Phone no later than December 14. This way, I will be able to order the awards and tally all the scores for our club's participation. Remember: **You must list HPARC as your Club Affiliation on the Summary Sheet for us to get credit for your score, and for you to receive your awards courtesy of the club!!!**

You can mail your sheets to Jeff Albrecht, N8WR, 17335 Kirkshire Ave., Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3261. E-mail or call me if you have other questions. See you at the meeting on October 18.

73 de N8WR, Jeff Albrecht, Second Vice President

ELECTION TIME IN HAMDOM...

The Great Lakes Section Has Elections This Fall. Here are some of their candidate's statements.

As I've (K8IT) mentioned before, I am running for Great Lakes Division Vice Director in 2005. Here's my 300-word candidate's statement.

Amateur radio and the ARRL face a number of difficult problems. Two of the most urgent are declining membership (currently less than 25% of licensed amateur radio operators are ARRL members) and diminishing clout in Washington, but there are others. I think most of our problems stem—not from the number of licensees—but from the number of *active* radio amateurs.

While there have not been any scientific surveys, some estimate that up 50% of all licensees are inactive. For whatever reason, these folks lost interest and are amateur radio operators in name only.

This is a shame, if you ask me. Inactive hams don't show up for public service events or work CW or experiment with circuits or send letters to their Congressmen and Congresswomen.

How can we encourage amateur radio operators to be more active? One thing we can do is develop classes that will teach people not only what they need to know to pass a test, but what they need to know to be successful amateur radio operators. These include how to solder, how to make voltage and current measurements, and how to make simple antennas.

Better support for clubs is also needed. Clubs are where the action is. Good clubs bring hams into the hobby and turn

them into active amateur radio operators. Bad clubs turn people away from amateur radio and foster bad stereotypes about amateur radio and amateur radio operators.

And finally, we need to start getting youth into amateur radio again. We must show them how technically challenging ham radio can be, but even more importantly, how much fun it can be.

I'm running for Great Lakes Division Vice Director so that I can work on these issues. With your support, we can make ham radio better.

And Here Is His Competitor's Statement – KB6NU

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JIM WEAVER, K8JE, SEEKS RE-ELECTION AS DIRECTOR

Fellow ARRL members, I am honored that you have allowed me to serve you and Amateur Radio as your Great Lakes Division Director the past three years. I appreciate your confidence in me and ask you to re-elect me to three more years of progress.

Why vote for me? I've fulfilled every promise I've made to you and have

proven my leadership. You don't need to guess "what" I am. My work on your behalf includes:

-Through my monthly "Weaver's Words" newsletter, I continually seek your advice on key issues, inform you of the "full story" behind these issues and demonstrate my belief that you are "The Reason ARRL Is." I kept my word to you. Incidentally, my votes on the Board have been completely consistent with the wishes expressed to me by the overwhelming majority of you.

-Work by the Board, Staff and local leadership resulted in victories by Division amateurs in nearly each instance our right to install antenna structures was challenged. I kept my word to you.

-ARRL Staff has begun a unique, detailed project to reach the pool of non-hams that will restore growth to the Amateur Radio Service. The results of the project will be recruiting new and younger amateurs, and keeping them active in our great Service. I kept my word to you.

-My motion that established the ARRL Grassroots Legislative Action Program is effectively promoting the needs of Amateur Radio. I kept my word to you.

The future offers unforeseen challenges. Key among these challenges is action resulting from FCC's decision to minimize its involvement in Amateur Radio. I want to work on the Board to develop strategies that to enable us to achieve the flexibility we need to guide our great Service through coming successful years.

If re-elected, I will renew my commitment to resolving members' concerns, to strengthen and to grow Amateur Radio and to continue to promote the full significance of "Members, The Reason ARRL Is."

Thanks. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments - k8je@arrl.org.

73,

Jim, K8JE

DART Update:

If you haven't already noticed, the remote receive sites are back online! Murray/KE8UM and John/AA8UU have worked on this project

continuously to make it happen. Along the way we've had help from Alex/N8AJB, John/K8UP, and Don/W8PDI, who has provided us a possible location in Belleville for a South remote receive site. Steve/N8FH, Pete/KC8WWE, and Mike/N8FI, have helped as well, and I would like to thank everyone. The D.A.R.T. board can't do it alone; we need your help finding permanent sites for our remote receives. Right now we are in need of an East side site; Tom/N8TMQ has allowed us to use his home for now, but we need to relocate as soon as possible.

How can you tell which site you are getting into when you transmit? Listen for the courtesy tone; a dit (e) means East site. Dah dit (N) is north, and dah dah (M) is the main site at in Oak Park. Soon I hope to be hearing dit dit dit (S) for the Belleville location.

Again, I ask for your patience as we put everything online. These remote receives all interact with one another through a voter, which decides which signal to retransmit. The voter is really key, and has to be adjusted just right to work well. What Murray has found is that settings for one location (like his house where he does the testing), do not work for the same equipment at another location. I lot try this and try that as he fine tunes the different settings.

We are all learning (and hearing) what works and what doesn't work. Right now the voter is favoring the East site selecting signals that should be coming in from the main site. Murray needs to adjust it so its more accurate.

The big question before us is whether to combine the DART and Hazel Park clubs together. Really, its not a question, just a matter of time. Several years ago, before my time as President of the DART, the HPARC acquired the assets of the DART. At that time the DART became a subsidiary of the Hazel Park club, and went from being W8JXU to being W8HP.

The 2 clubs keep separate boards and hold separate elections. We also continue to send out separate renewals for club membership, and hold separate board meetings. Can you see how this duplication of effort could be reduced? Instead of keeping everything separate, we think combining the 2 clubs makes more sense. The current D.A.R.T. board would become a technical advisory committee to the HPARC board, and would provide guidance on operation of the DART repeater. This is how other Ham clubs operate, and would provide savings on both postage and insurance for both clubs.

The DART is in solid shape, with \$1200 in the

bank and our only monthly expense being the phone bill for the main VHF site. We have purchased most of what we need for the remote receive sites, and need only pick up some antennas and coax for the South site once that is tested. If you have something you'd like to donate, check with John/AA8UU or Murray to see if can be used. Obviously we need to keep money in reserve for maintenance of both repeaters, but our anticipated expenses remain low.

I'm interested in your thoughts as well. Let me know what you'd like to see, both in terms of repeater operations and the proposed combination of clubs.

Tony/N8VR

Editors Notes

OK, I will write an article for this space this month, but next month this space will be reserved for your comments and response to this article! This month's topic? The current debate about whether the FCC dropping the CW requirement for a ticket is the right decision.

Being so new to the hobby, my first feelings were "I had to pass the @*\$&\$ code test, and so should you"! Also since I am so new, I didn't really understand the issues behind this decision - so I did a little research on the Internet.

Again, since I am so new to the hobby I don't know all the facts, and I don't think I am well versed enough to argue either side. So I did some research on the internet, and will "copy & paste" some of what I found.

Remember, next month is going to be your responses - you don't write, this space WILL be empty!

If we continue to require CW testing, we may turn off a whole generation of operators to CW in a time when the true benefits of CW and its recognition as an art form cannot be initially realized. One has to ask, how many CW operators have we lost due to the requirement, both in hams that were turned off by having to struggle with

the code because of a mandatory requirement, or those who never entered the hobby at all and never got a chance to come to CW on their own.

Will eliminating the CW testing requirement increase the number of 2-meter only hams? Initially, yes. But this is where strong local ham radio clubs come into play. These new "shack-on-the-belt" hams need to be encouraged to join local clubs, and be welcomed. CW operators need to embrace these folks and introduce them to CW at operating events. Unfortunately too many clubs form cliques that separate CW operators and VHF-only operators and never shall the two meet. This is death for any club and for Amateur Radio in general. When presented properly and without pressure or condescension, CW stands on its own and those exposed to it will become interested on their own when exposed to it.

We used to need professional telegraphers hence the CW requirement for amateurs (to provide trained pool of telegraphers). But the profession is DEAD, hence no need for professional telegraphers. Hence, we don't telegraphers any more, ergo no CW testing requirement.

So it's a GREAT IDEA to drop! Time has come to END CW requirements. Don't get me wrong, I operate about 90% CW for most of 42 years and it's a wonderful mode for DX, low noise, weak signal etc, but it is now a mode that is for ****hobbyists**** only and has zero commercial need or use; the world has moved beyond CW and it's obsolete. The requirement to know the code should be eliminated - its time has come.

A good theory test provides the "filter" to keep trained pool of technicians from the pool of amateurs. For those 30% who say we need it as a filter to keep the hoards of CB'ers off ham radio, I say to you, nothing's going to happen negative, and that you "Stick in the Mud Old Farts", and "Chicken Little's" are just damn fools, afraid of change; if you're so worried about it, why not replace the CW requirement with the requirement for ALL operators (this means you too fella - Stick In

The Mud Old Fart) to learn all BPSK code sets of a PSK31 signal and all Baudot code sets of a RTTY signal and be proficient at sending them by hand at testing time.

Now how absurd would that be?

The CW as a filter argument John's mention of "CW Bigots" is right on target. The argument that "CW is a filter to keep undesirable individuals out" has done more harm to CW than any other idea or opinion. The mode can stand on its own merits. If new or prospective radio amateurs had been made aware of its advantages, the CW requirement would be viewed as an opportunity as opposed to a hindrance.

I simply don't feel the 5 wpm requirement is prohibitive. Perhaps this argument could have been made in reference to the older 13 or 20 wpm code tests, but 5 wpm should be within reach of almost everyone. We should be careful when assuming that CW chases people away. This was the basic argument 12 or 13 years ago when the "no-code technician" license was established. The argument for the no-code license essentially amounted to "eliminate the code and all kinds of young innovative people will flood into the Amateur Radio Service and revolutionize it by establishing data networks, packet back-bones, and Internet hybrid technology." I'm not sure this has happened, at least not in our area.

The argument that CW is keeping people out of the hobby is, I suspect we have far more to fear from being perceived as a bunch of "grumpy old men chatting on glorified cell phones." The reasons for a lack of growth in the Amateur Radio Service involve issues of visibility, media presence, and the lack of a systematic approach to member recruitment and retention.

The No Code License is a Success...However, does this translate to the HF Spectrum? The no-code license has been generally beneficial, particularly for the VHF spectrum where CW offers few advantages over other modes. As long as Amateur Radio maintains a large HF "infrastructure," the simplicity and reliability of CW continues to have much to offer. By encouraging operators to gain a general familiarity with the radiotelegraph code, we provide them with an extremely valuable tool for HF portable operation, low power operation, or operation from locations with limited antenna options due to restrictive covenants and deeds.

We shouldn't overlook the ability of CW to facilitate international contacts by overcoming

language barriers, nor should be overlook the fact that CW allows the average Amateur Radio station to compete on a near equal footing with the "big guns." An Amateur Radio Service lacking a CW option may quickly devolve to little more than an "ERP Challenge" between high-power SSB stations.

From time to time I hear speculation that we could face a natural disaster that wipes out most of what we call "technology," or perhaps a war with an enemy who has figured out how to use their technology to defeat ours. These scenarios are often dredged up in an attempt to justify preserving Morse code, which is seen as being under threat and in need of defense.

In the first place, if there were a sudden need for thousands of Morse operators, they could be trained very quickly- possibly more quickly than communication networks could be created for them to use. We went through that in World War II.

In the second place, Morse code will survive as long as people want to use it, and there is absolutely no question that it is the mode of choice for an increasing number of hams. There are many "sub hobbies" within amateur radio, but the one area that has seen spectacular and sustained growth over the last few years is QRP (low power operation). Because of the power advantage (equivalent readability on the order of 18dB greater than SSB), CW is used in the majority of QRP operations. QRP is inexpensive, it's environmentally friendly, it's challenging, and it's fun. CW is the mode that makes it possible, and you don't hear any complaints about Morse being "too hard." But don't take my word for it, listen around 7.040 most any evening.

Diehards DXers know that CW will get through when SSB just won't cut it, and the same is true of the top contesters. Anybody who thinks CW is dying out should listen to the CW sub-bands during Field Day.

I'm in a position to know that interest in Morse code (and the machines that make it useful) has been growing steadily over the last four or five years. I'm also an active operator, so I know that use of CW on the air is also increasing. Maybe it's not "high tech." Or maybe, since it is direct digital input to the brain, it's as high as tech can get. Either way, it's fun, it's rewarding, and it's going to be around a lot longer than I am.

What do you think? Is it time to take CW off the testing procedure? Write me and give me your opinion! Keith, KD8AWZ

HAPPENINGS IN HAMDOM

TO ALL OAKLAND COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS AND CLUBS

Hi All...Thought I would take pen (i.e. keyboard) in hand and let everyone know what's happening around our area in the next few weeks. Lots of stuff is happening and we all will have many chances to get out and meet friends and improve our radio skills.

On the County Front.

Oakland County ARPSC just concluded a very successful special event radio demonstration at the Bloomfield Township Police Department Open House on Sunday, October 9, 2005. We had 9 hams turn out to operate an IC-730 and vertical antenna in the parking lot of the Police Department. We had about 1000 visitors from the public mingle with us and watch our operation and take home informative literature on home safety and weather and homeland security provided by ARRL and the County Department of Emergency Preparedness and Response. Much fun and good snacks were had for all. I probably ate too much cake but still had fun operating. We made about 35 contacts so actually put out a good signal this year.

The Oakland County ARPSC will hold its Annual General Membership meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2005. A light dinner will be served starting at 6:00PM at the EOC in Pontiac followed at 7:00PM with the Winter Skywarn Class session offered to our membership. To register for dinner and/or the Skywarn class session YOU MUST CALL Loretta at the EOC at 248-858-5300 to reserve your dinner/class attendance. We have room for 60 people for the class, so register very soon.

The Oakland County ARPSC, in an attempt to meet the increased requirements of FEMA for training of its members for emergency training, has scheduled a FEMA IS-700 class on Incident Command and NIMS response in an emergency for Saturday, November 12, 2005 from 9:00AM to 12:00 Noon approximately. To register for this class, you must call Loretta at the EOC at 248-858-5300 soon.

The annual Simulated Emergency Test will be held this year in Oakland County on November 19, 2005. Further details and scenarios will be announced by the County, or in this Newsletter in later issues.

The following events are currently scheduled in our area (let me know if you have anything happening at your club which is not listed here and we will post in next news bulletin)

October 11 and 12 will be EDS/SATERN Exercise at Camp Echo Grove located at 1101 Camp Road, Leonard, Michigan. A special event station using SATERN club call of N8SE will be held Tuesday night the October 11 from 5 PM to 9 PM (break 6-7 for supper) .We will be using frequencies of 3.952 on 80m, 7.265 on 40m, and 145.565 on 2mtr as Lapeer and /or USECA repeaters.

October 22, Lakeshore Super Swap, Holland Amateur Radio Club, Holland Michigan Harbor Lights School. 3600 -152nd Avenue and Riley Street. <http://www.hollandarc.com>. Talk in on 147.060 PL 94.8 hz.Contact Phil Van Huis KC8QXY . Phone 616-335-5032, Email pjvanhuis@wmol.com

October 23, Blossomland Blast, Blossomland Amateur Radio Association, Benton Harbor,MI. Playland Hall/Demar's West 1050 Nickerson Avenue. <http://www.blossomlandara.org> Talk in 146.82(-) alternative 146.72(-). Contact Gary Wallis KB8VIM Phone 269-429-3629.Email w8mai@comcast.net

October 30 Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association (USECA) Sterling Heights, MI American Polish Century Club 33204 Maple Lane Drive, Talk in 147.180 (PL 110 hz) Contact Bob Hollingsworth KZ8N.Phone 586-716-9114 and leave message. Email to hamfest@k8uo

December 3... A net Control Station Training Workshop will be held this date at Salvation Army Headquarters 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield, MI for 10AM-2 PM.This workshop will discuss what you should know in order to a more effective net control station no matter what kind of net in which you participate.

If you wish to attend please email k8amr@arrl.net and she will send a copy of the manual. You are expected to read the manual before class and bring written answers to the scenarios found at the back fo the book .If you attend and submit the written answers, yo will receive a certificate of completion.

December 4 33rd Annual L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club Swap and Shop, Harrison Township, Mount Clemens, MI L'Anse Creuse High School 38495 L'Anse Creuse Road. Talk in 147.08 (ECHO Repeater), 146.42 simplex,

Contact David Herrington N8NLK Phone 586-465-2792 Email n8nlk@arrl.net

December 18 Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell, Lowell Michigan, Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes Street, <http://www.argyl.org> Talk in 146620-PL 94.8 hz and 145.270 -PL 94.8.Contact Al Eckman,WW8WW.Phone 616-897-7659.Email al.eckman@sbcglobl.net

Gary K8IKW
Assistant Emergency Coordinator-Public Services
Oakland County Office of Emergency
Preparedness and Response'
Email all news items and announcement
to K8ikw@aol.com

**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 October 19th, 7:00 PM

FIRST CLASS MAIL—Dated Material