

The Zero Beat

THIS MEETING

January 13, 2010
7:30 P.M.
 (socializing begins at 7)
Hoover Elementary
23720 Hoover Ave.
Hazel Park 48030

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to the first issue of the new year. Dave has picked out 2 good topics and he's going to surprise us as to which one he will pick, to show at the meeting January 13.

We will discuss final plans for the Swap coming up on January 17. Hopefully you plan on being there for setup on Saturday. As usual we'll meet at Jimi's for breakfast and then head over to the High School to set up the tables. Tear down will start at noon on Sunday.

I will be at the meeting with my surgical boot on so I expect to see you there.

Marsha N8FE

PRESIDENT'S QRM



Captain Monty B. Wandling of the Salvation Army reports our Club donated \$1050.00 at our December meeting and this

does not include the toys. Good job everyone!

Happy Ham New Year! Let's make this a great year for the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club and amateur radio!

How about a resolution to upgrade your license or if you are already an Extra about DXCC or a new mode? Maybe take an ARRL on line course or a night school class on electronics. Top of the honor roll anyone? Never tried contesting or how about a band you never operated before. When is the last time you built something from scratch or a kit? Is that old rig sitting on the shelf, well blow the dust off of it, fire it up again and fix it if necessary.

Have you ever worked (contacted) some-

one through a satellite or used one of the digital modes? Participated in public service events? There is just so much we can do.

We start the year off with our January meeting and then our annual 44th swap (Hamfest). We are closing in on fifty years. Support our swap and make sure fliers get to vendors and potential attendees, as this is our only fundraiser.

The January meeting is the due date to turn in your summary sheets from the November CW and Phone Sweepstakes Contests. Turn them into to Dave, K8TRF. The club will buy your pins and clean sweep cups to be presented at the June Banquet (I promise no snow at the banquet).

Before we know it we will be time for field day. Now is a good time to start planning. It's a good time to experiment with antennas. What rig will you bring to field day? A good rig will have better filters and work better at field day. An inexpensive receiver will experience more interference.

I can't wait to hear about the new equip-

(Continued on page 2)

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Q R M C O N T .

(Continued from page 1)

ment some of you received over the holidays. Be sure to tell us at the January meeting.

Please continue to support and participate in our two club nets. The Sunday night net at 9:00 pm Sunday on 146.64 MHz and the CW net on 28.128 MHz Tuesdays at 8:00 pm

Enjoy radio
73 and Happy New Year 2010
Murray, KE8UM

S W A P I S N O W !

HPARC 44th ANNUAL HAMFEST
Jan. 17, 2010 - 8:00 AM till 12:00 NOON
Hazel Park High School

23400 Hughes, Hazel Park, Michigan 48030
Talk-in W8HP 146.640 (100 Hz pl)
Plenty of Free Parking

TABLES \$15 TICKETS \$5
Vendor Setup: 6 AM with paid admission
Download the [HPARC Swap Flier](#).

For more information contact
Swap Chairman Mike WD8S
wd8s@arrl.net or call 248-399-7970

T E C H P O O L / C L A S S

New Technician Question Pool effective July 1. has been released [Download it](#)

Tell your friends to take the **HPARC Technician Class beginning March 1** for 10 weeks. It's FREE (cost of book is the only fee).

This class is the **LAST CLASS BEFORE NEW POOL STARTS**. Exam will be the last class.

Contact Marsha N8FE
n8fe@arrl.net or call 248-542-9573

H P A R C N E T S

Oakland County ARPSC

Every Thursday @ 8 pm on 146.900 MHZ/100pl. Hospital Radio Net on last Thursday of each month during the net. (W8OAK-3 will run packet on 147.56 MHz for those wanting to practice and test their equipment)

www.qsl.net/w8oak

Sunday Night 2-meter Phone Net

Every Sunday at 9:00 PM local time, (146.64 (-), catch up on club news and information, and just to keep in touch. All amateurs are welcome to check in.

NTS Traffic Nets

the Southeast Michigan National Traffic System (NTS) net Normally held every night at 10:15 PM local time on 145.33. Net manager is Diane, W18K.

Wolverine Net

The 75 Meter Wolverine Net meets on 3935 KHz (LSB phone) daily at 7:00 PM local time with pre-net starting at about 6:30 PM. The nets start a half hour earlier in winter.

You can get details from

Joe, K8JRE joecuchetti@comcast.net or

Ed, W8EDE ed@ellisgen.com.

HPARC medium speed CW net

Every Tuesday night at 8:00 PM on 28.128 MHz. Al, N8WYO, runs the net and will match your speed. This is a net for folks who have mastered the 5 wpm, and want to move up to faster speeds, or if you're a little rusty.

Al calls CQHP at 8 PM sharp!

S E R I A L P O R T S

If you are the recipient of a new computer, you are probably still looking for the RS-232 serial ports! Never fear, Rick WW3DE has used Prolific and Belden serial to USB adapters without problems for RTTY and rig control. Don Hill, AA5AU, has information about this on his excellent [RTTY contesting](#) Web site.

How good are you at
Ham Radio Trivia?
Click "TRIVIA"
and find out.

TRIVIA

H I N 1 S H O T S

2009 H1N1 flu vaccination is available to the general population at all three office locations:

North Oakland Health Center, 1200 N Telegraph Road, Building 34 East, Pontiac

South Oakland Health Center, 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield

West Oakland Health Center, 1010 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake

Hours are 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm on Monday, Tuesday through Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Pre-enrollment is required. Clients can pre-enroll at www.oakgov.com/health or call 248-858-1200.

There is no charge for the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine.

Oakland County Health Division continues to offer seasonal flu shots at all three offices. Please call the flu hotline at **800-434-3358** or contact Nurse on Call at **800-848-5533** for up-to-date information.

N E W P O W E R P O L E S

Powerpoles are now available in welded assemblies from [Anderson Power Products](#). There is typically a minimum of 500 to 1000 pieces (250 to 500) mated sets. These are ultrasonically bonded. Because Red and Black are so popular, there is a standard part number: PPHSG12RB. These cost a little more because of the extra labor to bond them, but now you can do away with the roll-pin. You can order this from any of our distributors. See our Web site for our regular distribution channels. There are also numerous smaller distributors that carry some product as well.

Also, Anderson finally made a waterproof powerpole pack. We call the Product Line SPEC Pak. We use 15/45 powerpoles inside an IP67 shell. Currently we have a 4 and a 6 pole version released with many other configurations in design to be released throughout 2010- 2011. By mid 2010 we'll have versions to handle all the way up to 3/0 wire and hundreds of configurations in between. We also now have a premate [ground](#) powerpole and a [powerpole that will accept 4 signal contacts in the same 15/45 housing](#).-- Eric Brown, Anderson Power Products

C Q D X . . .

Special Japanese callsign 8J6ISM

Began in December and will run through January 31, to celebrate the founding of Itoshima City in Fukuoka Prefecture on Kyushu, one of the main Japanese islands. On January first the City of Maebaru and towns of Nijo and Shima will merge into the new City of Itoshima. "Itoshima District" will cease to exist by that name. QSL 8J6ISM via the JARL Bureau.

G6PAA in VK6 then going to ZL

VK6/G6PAA is now on from Western Australia until his operation ends January 13. Look for Jim on 80-10, CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. He has 100 watts to a dipole. QSL direct or bureau to G6PAA.

After his stay in Australia, Jim next goes to New Zealand and will exercise the **ZL/G6PAA** callsign, **January 16-March 1**. Jim will probably go to **OC-136**, New Zealand's North Island, and also **OC-134**, the South Island. He will again be 80-10 CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK with the same station setup and QSL info.

Milk Everywhere on Chirikof Island, NA-235

UA9OBA, N6PYN and N3QQ say, "We actually worked out logistics for August, 2010," weather permitting, for an expedition to Chirikof Island, NA-235.

N3QQ, Yuri, says one interesting factor is that while there are no bears on the island, there are as many as 800 wild cows. The ops may put up a temporary electric fence to keep the cows out of their antenna setup and camp.

Going on to the Seal Islands, NA-239, is possible after Chirikof is complete. They plan to use the call KL7RRC on Chirikof and N6PYN/KL7 on the Seal Islands.

THAILAND, HS. – Joerg, DL1MJF will be QRV as HS0ZGQ until January 25. This includes a one-week side trip to Koh Samui Island, IOTA AS-101. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

Listen for Scouts during Australian Jamboree using callsign V12AJ2010 – under the guidance of Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club members (VK2FFG) in Sydney, to take place January 4-14, 2010 near Sydney. QSL via VK2FFG either direct or via the bureau.

C O N T E S T C O R N E R

Being the beginning of the new year I thought you all might like links to all of the QSO parties:

- [7th area QSO Party](#) - Central Oregon DX Club N7LE
- [Alabama QSO Party](#) - official site of the Alabama QSO party.
- [California QSO Party](#) - held on the first weekend of October.
- [Colorado QSO Party](#) - back again after a long absence
- [Connecticut QSO Party](#) - Candlewood ARA
- [Delaware QSO Party](#) - First state amateur radio club
- [Georgia QSO Party](#) - By the South East Contest Club
- [Hawaii QSO Party](#) - Sponsored by the Koolau ARC, KH6J.
- [HDXA - Nebraska QSO Party](#)
- [HNY QSO Party](#) - by the polish radio amateurs' journal, qtc
- [Illinois QSO Party](#) - The Radio Amateur Megacycle Society
- [Indiana QSO Party](#) -
- [MA QSO Party](#) - the first full weekend of May
- [MD-DC QSO Party](#) - Rules and regs and forms
- [Mi QSO Party](#) - sponsored by Mad River Radio Club
- [Missouri QSO Party](#) - open to all hams world-wide.
- [NC QSO Party](#) - By Forsyth Amateur Radio Club
- [New England QSO Party](#)
- [Ohio QSO Party](#) - One of the best in terms of participation.
- [Oklahoma QSO Party](#) - Sponsored by the OK DX Association
- [Ontario QSO party](#) - held third full weekend of April
- [Tennessee QSO Party](#) - By Tennessee contest group
- [Texas QSO party](#) - the Northwest Amateur Radio Society
- [The Florida QSO Party](#) - 4th full weekend in April.
- [Vermont QSO Party](#) - By Radio Amateurs of Northern VT
- [Wisconsin QSO Party](#) - West Allis Radio Amateur Club

CQ WPX CW contest May 29-30

CQ WPX is a great contest to get new countries. Oh I see, you don't know code. Well, that's why I picked this contest as a good one to mention in January. You have 5 months to learn code at a reasonable speed. No you are not necessarily going to get the guy sending at 35 wpm. But then there are still plenty of guys out there sending slower.

So download a [G4FON](#) or log into [www.locw.com](#) and learn CW. Go get those countries. They want you as much as you want them. And the big result is that once you know it, you can use it any time to go for that contact. Some folks even use it to ragchew, just like in SSB.

GL, Marsha N8FE

MARS MAKEOVER

On Wednesday, December 23, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued an [Instruction](#) concerning MARS, effective immediately. This *Instruction* gives the three MARS services – Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps – a new focus on homeland security and a new name: *Military Auxiliary Radio System*. The *Instruction* is the [first major revision to MARS since January 26, 1988](#) – as such, the first revision since the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina, two major events that changed the way Amateur Radio dealt with emergency communications.

The DoD defines a "military auxiliary" as "an organized body of volunteers prepared to supplement the uniformed services or any designated civilian authorities by provision of specialized autonomous services when called upon or when situations warrant," and gives the Civil Air Patrol and Coast Guard Auxiliary as examples of auxiliaries.

In the past, MARS had focused primarily on emergency communications and health and welfare support. The DoD's *Instruction* now directs the three MARS services to provide "contingency radio communications" to support US government operations, DoD components and "civil authorities at all levels," providing for national security and emergency preparedness events. MARS units will still continue to provide health and welfare communications support "to military members, civilian employees and contractors of DoD Components, and civil agency employees and contrac-

tors, when in remote or isolated areas, in contingencies or whenever appropriate." MARS must also be capable of operation in "radio only" modes – without landlines or the Internet – and sustainable on emergency power (when public utility power has failed); some MARS stations must be transportable for timely deployment.

UHF IRLP

To the users of our UHF IRLP Repeater

When disconnecting from an IRLP reflector or other node, do not make disconnect announcements to the IRLP users—especially if there is an ongoing QSO. Announcements by a local user of any function they are doing with the repeater are not information that needs to be disseminated over the IRLP to other users on a busy IRLP reflector. Just disconnect with DTMF, ID and say anything else you need to.

Just to be clear—we want you to remain legal—so ID and announce you are clearing the repeater, but obviously do not interrupt an ongoing QSO! So #73 first, then make your announcements once you are disconnected.

We have been requested to pass this information on to our operators by other reflector owners.

Thanks
Murray Scott, KE8UM
President, HPARC

[Procedures for using the IRLP node are available on our website www.hparc.org.]

HPARC JACKETS

SIZE	FLANNEL	QUILTED
Regular	40.00	45.00
XXL	41.00	48.00
3XL	44.00	51.00

\$10 Off First Jacket

T-SHIRTS \$10

See Sean K8KHZ at the meeting or call on 248-331-7821 any time.

A R O U N D T O W N

Livonia Swap
Sunday February 21, 2010 from 8AM until NOON
Livonia Civic Park Seniors Center
SE Corner area of Farmington Rd. & 5 Mile Rd
Tables \$16 (\$20 at door) and admission \$6
Contact k8suns@arrl.net
Talk-in 145.350

EVERY HAM SHOULD KNOW HOW TO...

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list, there was recently a discussion about using modulated CW on 2m. One fellow pointed out that MFJ sold a unit that would do this. When I pointed out that this box cost \$100 and that they could do exactly the same thing with the \$18 PicoKeyer from HamGadgets.Com, I got some flack that the PicoKeyer was a kit, and that some people might not be able to build it.

I pointed out that a couple of years ago our club held a construction night, and that several people who had never soldered before successfully completed the kit. I also pointed out that even if the ham didn't have the proper tools, he or she could purchase a soldering iron, needle-nose pliers, and diagonal cutters, in addition to the kit, for less than \$100.

I don't know if that convinced him, but it got me thinking about what a ham should be able to do. This is the list I've come up with so far:

1. Solder. Every ham should know how to solder a connection, and by extension, build small kits and cables. Over the course of one's ham career, this skill will save you a ton of time and money.
2. Build a dipole antenna. The dipole is the simplest and most versatile antenna. Knowing how to build one and use one is an essential skill.
3. Check into a net. Net operation is one of the most basic operating skills.
4. Use a multimeter to measure voltage, current, and resistance and know what those measurements mean. This is the most basic skill used in troubleshooting, and at some point or another, you're going to have to troubleshoot something.

This list does, of course, imply that a ham is physically capable of doing them. I would not expect hams that are physically disabled to be able to do everything on this list.

After I posted this to my blog (www.kb6nu.com), I got several good responses. Jeff said, "I believe hams should know how to install RF connectors, particularly the three most used in our hobby, the PL-259, the BNC, and the N connector." Blair, WB3AWI, replied, "Another thing that hams should know how to do is to measure the SWR of an antenna."

So, now I ask you, What do you think every ham should know how to do? Feel free to post a comment to my blog or e-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

When not analyzing the abilities of amateurs, KB6NU pounds brass on nearly all the HF bands and teaches various ham radio classes in Ann Arbor, MI. You can read his other musings on our fine hobby at www.kb6nu.com.

CONTEST U 2010

Dayton ConTest University - CTU USA 2010 - Registration now open

I am pleased to announce that "early bird" registration for Dayton ConTest University ("CTU") 2010 is now OPEN. This will be the only Contest University held in the USA during 2010. Our 4th year holding CTU in Dayton!

The CTU staff is working hard to prepare an interesting and informative curriculum for 2010. CTU USA will be held in Dayton, Ohio on Thursday May 13, 2010 (classes last all day). This is the day before the big 3 day Dayton event!

CTU USA 2010 will feature some of the best Radio Contest operators and station builders ("CTU Professors"). They will present state of the art contesting topics that will increase your contesting knowledge and fun.

Thanks to our flagship Sponsor - Icom America for their continued support of CTU USA 2010 and our contesting radio sport. Also thanks to CQ Magazine, DX Engineering, Superbertha, International Radio and Dave, W9ZRZ for their contributions that help make CTU a success.

For CTU USA 2010 details, registration and more information, go to: www.contestuniversity.com

Please make sure that you click on the registration page and indicate if you are a returning CTU graduate or this is your first time attending Dayton CTU.

Based upon the tremendous attendance at Dayton CTU 2009, I expect Dayton CTU 2010 student registration slots will fill up fast. Space is limited. This is the only USA Contest University for 2010 - we hope to see you in Dayton!

Thanks to Scott, KA9FOX and QTH.com for his hosting of the Contest University Web site!

73! By K3LR, Tim Duffy

OPERATOR QUIZ

Which type of operator are you ?

Operating Courtesies

Our ability to drive on streets and highways in reasonable safety depends on orderly driving practices by our fellow drivers and us. Our ability to conduct day-to-day business depends largely on basic honesty between other people and us. So too, our ability to operate and enjoy Amateur Radio depends on mutual courtesy between our fellow amateurs and us.

To exist in harmony with each other, we need to respect the needs and rights of each other. When it comes to this, all that is needed is to observe the Golden Rule – Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

It is unfortunate that too many hams overlook the Golden Rule. Instead they fail to observe good operating practices and FCC regulations when operating. This occurs most noticeably, but not totally, during contests and DX pileups.

I refer to the bad operating that occurs when in their eagerness to compete, contesters or DXers thoughtlessly transmit on top of ongoing QSOs. Equally bad is when a member of a scheduled net or QSO acts as though the frequency belongs to them and barges into another QSO, contest or DX pileup to claim the frequency by brute force. Either situation represents poor operating practice – and maybe a flagrant rules violation.

There are gray areas associated with QRM. These gray areas often occur as propagation shifts. As this shift occurs, distant, previously-unheard stations may come into range . . . right on top of an ongoing QSO or net.

When propagation shift results in QRM, which station is at fault? Neither, probably. The situation is an act of the propagation gods.

Yet, much of the time we hear one or both stations complain ad nauseam about the discourteous behavior of the other guy who suddenly started to QRM. Never mind that the other guy may have been on frequency for at least as long as the other operator.

A mature operating attitude is all that is needed to resolve coincidental QRM such as this. Someone probably should QSY.

If you are a net control or net manager, the message is that the net does not own a frequency; any frequency.

ARE YOU GRIDLESS?

As an award chaser, I was shocked when I received this email telling me that I was hurting other people's chances of getting awards.

"I just noticed that your LoTW info isn't showing any specific info such as CQ Zone, ITU Zone, State and County. I imagine you want to provide that info since not having it pretty much prevents everyone else from using your QSL as confirmation for WAS.

If you want to change it, launch the TQSL program (off your Start menu somewhere) and when it comes up select the Station menu and Edit Stations.

That will open another window which will list one (or more) of your call signs. Select your call sign from the list and click on the Edit button.

In the Edit window that opens, specify the following:

Grid Square: EN82kl

ITU Zone: 8

CQ Zone: 4

Then press the Next button and select Michigan for your State and Oakland for your County. Press Finish and it will save that info.

For all future uploads to LoTW, it will use this newly updated info. You need to re-upload all your previous contacts (or the ones relevant to your current location) for them to get this info applied to what was previously uploaded by you."

After reading the email, I immediately, did as it suggested and made the changes. I also double-checked to see if I needed to re-submit any other logs.

Happy DX'ing
Marsha N8FE

Most NTS nets of which I am aware understand this and act accordingly. Members of a few other nets sometimes seem to be uneducated about this fact and often try to capture "their" frequency by stomping all over (technical term) other operators.

Courtesy is a free, readily-available commodity. It should be exercised more frequently and more fully.
[Source: James Weaver K8JE, Great Lakes Director]

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2010 DATES

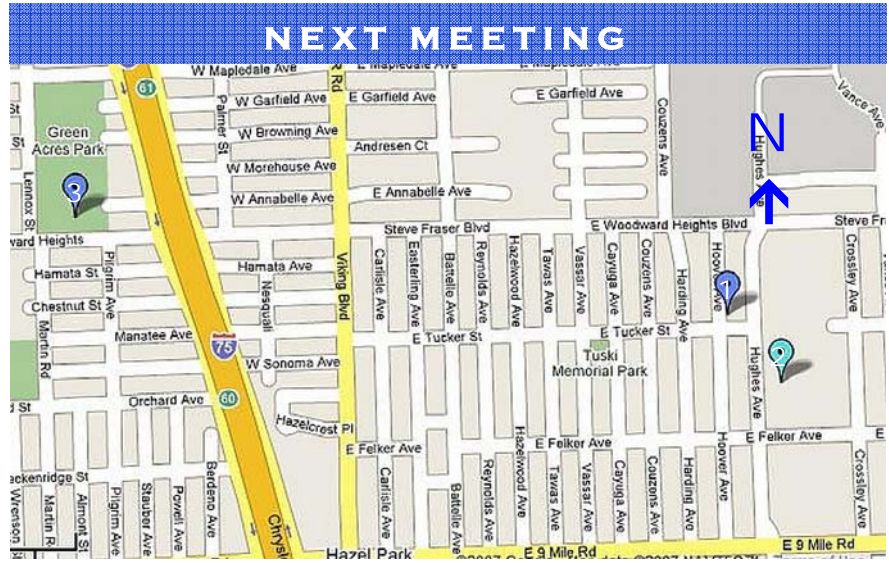
- February 10
- March 10
- April 14
- May 12
- June 9

TIME

Socializing @7:00 P.M.
Meeting @7:30 P.M.

PLACE

Hoover Elementary
23720 Hoover Ave.
Hazel Park 48030



Locations: 1- Meeting 2- Swap 3- Picnic

We're on the Web
www.hparc.org



Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 368
Hazel Park, MI 48030



Please check mailing label — is your membership about to expire?