

# The Zero Beat

## General Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2011 @ 7:30 P.M. (socializing begins at 7)  
Hoover Elementary 23720 Hoover Ave., Hazel Park, MI 48030

We had a nice turn out for the holiday party and the gifts for the school kids were very nice. We did miss those of you who were not able to make it. Hope you had a very nice holiday season. Did Santa bring you any radio toys? If so bring them or pictures of them to the meeting and share. We have to plan for the swap that is only days after the January meeting. If you haven't already volunteered to sell tickets please contact Walt or one of his team. We will need all hands on deck to set up on Saturday and tear down on Sunday. You do not have to be strong just willing in order to help out.

Come early to the meeting and visit with fellow hams. Everyone is welcome to come to the meeting and bring a friend. Coffee and donuts will be provided during break.

Anyone wishing to join the club please go to the website [www.hparc.org](http://www.hparc.org) Fill out the membership form. Print it and bring it to the meeting with your dues.

## President's QRM

Happy New Year! Another year already! Let's make it a good year for the Club and Amateur Radio. This month we have our first meeting of the year and the Hamfest/Swap four days later.

It's not too early to start thinking about field day. We already have the permit so we are good to go at Hazelwood again. Let the planning begin to make it the best fun field day ever. John, AA8UU is the field day chairman again this year.

Have you been procrastinating on an upgrade? Now is a good time to upgrade as we are sponsoring two upper license classes this year. We will have both General license and Extra license classes the first part of the year. Maybe we can beat the record as the club with the most Extra's. Get some class and have fun!

The first meeting of 2012 is January 11. Our annual swap (Hamfest) is January 15 and it will be the 46th year. 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.

Be sure to help at the swap, doors for example. We also need people for set up Saturday and tear down Sunday. Walt, KD8LWC is the swap chairman again this year.

The January meeting is the last date to turn in your summary sheets from the November CW and Phone Sweepstakes Contests. Turn them into to Larry, K8MU. The club will buy your pins and clean sweep cups to be presented at the June Banquet. Sweepstakes is fun and it's the only contest the club is officially promotes. Some of us do however list Hazel Park ARC as our club in other contest submissions and I again encourage you to do the same.

This year we are going to only sell June Banquet tickets in advance and they will not be sold at the door. This will avoid the problems we had last year. We will start selling them as soon as the tickets are printed.

Club elections will be here before we know it. Now is the time to start thinking about who to nominate for the various club offices including President. Do you want the same old people on the board or new faces with fresh ideas? Would you like to run for an office? Now is a good time to start asking for support and jockey for position. The club is what YOU make it.

Bring a guest to the meeting. Show ham radio to the neighborhood kids. Demonstrate ham radio at the "Y", Boys and Girls clubs or church.

Tell us about the new rig you received for the Christmas

Please continue to support and participate in our club net. We still meet at Saturday morning for breakfast at Jimi's Restaurant in Royal Oak.

Use and enjoy you radio's, have fun

73 and have a safe prosperous Happy New Year in 2012

Murray, KE8UM

## New Webmaster

Have you been to the HPARC website lately? Well, why not? We have a new webmaster Larry W8MU and he is doing a bang up job!! (Thank you Larry for taking over) Larry has been adding some new content and one thing he did that I never could figure out was how to make the font bigger. 3 huge "thank yous" for that.

Larry has included a RSS feed from the Southgate Amateur Radio News. This is a great source and since we will have it available every day, I will discontinue posting that information in the newsletter. So make sure to go to the website on a regular basis to get your information. In fact, make it your home page. The ARRL feed is there as well as a link to look up callsigns on QRZ. What will he link of next? Bravo!! Marsha N8FE, EX-webmaster

### HPARC OFFICERS

President: Murray [KE8UM](#)  
 First Vice President: Jim [K8ABZ](#)  
 Second Vice President: Larry [K8MU](#)  
 Treasurer: Bob [K8AMP](#)  
 Director: Sean [K8KHZ](#)  
 Secretary: Bill [N8QVS](#)  
 Parliamentarian: Ed [N8LBS](#)

\*For a Club Roster please e-mail Jim [K8ABZ](#)

### VOLUNTEERS

Public Information Officer: Jerry [W9NPI](#)  
 Webmaster: Larry [K8MU](#)  
 VUCC/WAS Awards Manager: Sean [K8KHZ](#)

Field Day Chairman: John [AA8UU](#)  
 Newsletter Editor: Marsha [N8FE](#)  
 VE Testing: Jerry [W9NPI](#)  
 2-Meter Net Manager: Bill [N8QVS](#)  
 Contesting Mentor: Mike [WD8S](#)  
 Contesting Mentor: Gerry [K8GT](#)  
 Banquet Chairman: Rey [W8REY](#)  
 Repeater Chairman: Murray [KE8UM](#)  
 Donuts: Rey [W8REY](#)  
 Siren Testing Subnet: Marsha [N8FE](#)  
 MS Walk: Phil [AA8KR](#)  
 Oak Apple Run Royal Oak: Mike [WD8S](#)  
 March of Dimes Walk: Jim [K8ABZ](#)

## ARO Classes

Hazel Park ARC is sponsoring amateur radio license classes beginning in January 2012. The instructors need to know who is interested in attending so they can order books. Please email to them as soon as possible, and when your email is received, you'll receive a reply with more information about the classes.

### General Class License Course:

Start Date/Time: Monday, January 9, 2012 7 to 9 PM  
 Duration: 12 Monday sessions  
 Location: Southfield Emergency Management Office  
 ([Area map](#), [Civic Center map](#), [Directions](#))  
 Cost: FREE (\$23 charge for book)  
 Contact: Wallace Murray, KE8HR, [email](#), phone: 248-685-8485

### Amateur Extra Class License Course:

Start Date/Time: Friday, January 27, 2012 7 to 9 PM  
 Duration: 16 Friday sessions  
 Location: Southfield Emergency Management Office  
 ([Area map](#), [Civic Center map](#), [Directions](#))  
 Cost: FREE (\$23 charge for book)  
 Contact: Ron Miotke, WD8MNX, [email](#), phone: 248-246-7959

## NETS

### HPARC Sunday Night 2-meter FM 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.

### 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](mailto:joecuchetti@comcast.net) or Ed, W8EDE [ed@ellisgen.com](http://ed@ellisgen.com).

### 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](http://www.qsl.net/w8oak)

### NTS Traffic Nets

The Southeast Michigan National Traffic System (NTS) net normally held every night at 10:15 PM local time on 146.76 MHz Repeater. New people are welcome.

### SARS Tuesday Night Net

Southfield Emergency Management ARES group holds a weekly net every Tuesday night at 8 pm on 146.640 MHz (the DART repeater). All amateur radio operators are welcome. If you have traffic to pass but cannot make the 10:15 pm SEMTN net, you can check into this net and someone will get it passed to SEMTN.

## [73 Magazine Archive Online](#)

By KB6NU ([kb6nu@kb6nu.com](mailto:kb6nu@kb6nu.com))

511 issues of *73 Magazine* are [now online](#). Wayne Green started *73* in 1960 after serving as editor of *CQ Magazine* for several years. It ceased publication in 2003.

Wayne Green is one of the [true characters](#) in ham radio, and indeed, in technical publishing in general. Not only did he publish *73 Magazine*, but also started *Byte* and a slew of other computer hobbyist magazines. These days, he seems to be interested in a variety of what some might call “off the wall” topics, including [cold fusion and alternative health care](#).

The issues of *73* that are in the archives are listed in a seemingly random order. I suspect that this is the order in which they were uploaded to the archive. Even so, just scanning the article titles is fascinating. Here's a sample:

- Eager for Meager – Try an 11m vertical on 160 (Dec 2002)
- How to Build A Great Ham Club (Dec 1997)
- The Schizophrenic Triangle – a split-personality radiator (Dec 1978)
- RF Sniffer – Snooper sensitive RF detector which you will build (Dec 1960)

When I first went to download an issue—the December 2002 issue—I was excited to see that a Kindle-compatible .mobi file was available. I was quickly disappointed, however. After downloading and copying the file over to my Kindle, I found that it was nearly unreadable. Whoever converted the file must have used some kind of OCR program, and didn't do any checking before uploading it. So, stick with the PDF version.

If you do download and read some of the articles, please comment here if you find any that are particularly interesting.

## DX Stamps Available

Bill Plum, who sells foreign postage stamps and DX supplies (like those neat nesting envelopes), says some prices will have to increase January 1st. However, if you want/need some of those items, he will be "open for business" between Christmas and New Years for end of year ordering. His email address is [plumdx@msn.com](mailto:plumdx@msn.com) Phone is 908-788-1020 & FAX is 908-782-2612.

## Thailand HSOAC station needs help

Christmas was great for many of us here in the US. The news from Thailand and the destruction of the HSOAC station is not as good. Please look at the pictures at: <http://bit.ly/9GztWh> and read the attached letter concerning the RAST Club Station. If you can help, please do so.

Thailand National Ham Club appeals for help following massive flood....

The short story is.... the RAST club station in Bangkok suffered a total loss flood and is appealing to the world's ham clubs and hams to help re-build. 14 rigs were lost along with amps and all other devices, including a beautiful QSL display/collection. Please help Thailand hams by donating any amount via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.rast.or.th) donate@rast.or.th. All donations will go entirely to rebuilding the station.

The full story is....

For two months, the National Club Station of Thailand, HSOAC, in Bangkok was flooded with water of seven feet (3 meters). Early on, officials estimated no flooding inside the dikes of the university property location. The National Club (Radio Amateur Society of Thailand, RAST) felt safe, but some dikes did not hold, and the club station is a total loss.

The sad photographs are at [www.qsl.net/rast](http://www.qsl.net/rast). The dirty marks on the wall show the height of the polluted water. The RAST club could not be insured and has no savings to replace the equipment. The three towers and multi-band yagis were not harmed, and the clubhouse itself can be refurbished and used again. However, there are no surviving radios.

This station is open for operation by any licensed amateur, from anywhere, and for decades has represented Thailand in contests and as a first HS DX contact. The goal is to get at least one complete station replaced as soon as possible, but replacement will expand as funding is available. RAST is not and never has been a rich club, but has actively supported ham radio and the creation of more operators, as well as representing ham radio to Thailand and other regional governing bodies. RAST is the IARU member club in Thailand, and although it has the Royal Patronage of His Majesty, the King, there has not been a tradition of regular government financial support. This station is only one of about a dozen HF-equipped ham stations in the country. HSOAC computer logs are safe.

Ironically, while the Club Station was under water, RAST members provided extensive disaster communication assistance and food packet deliveries, using their own 2-meter radios, vehicles and boats. The Club Station would normally have been a net control location, but the floodwaters moved in too quickly to save the equipment there.

All possible sources, official and voluntary, will be approached for donations as well as radio manufacturers and dealers worldwide. Anyone with suggestions of contacts that can help—and all donations, of course—will be warmly welcomed. The thanks of all Thailand hams and future hams-in-the-making go out in our time of need.

Thanks, and 73,  
Writing for the RAST recovery committee, Charly, HSOZCW

## Carving Out Time for Ham Radio

BY Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On a recent episode of This Week in Tech ([www.twit.tv](http://www.twit.tv)), Leo Laporte, W6TWT, mentions ham radio, and a guest asks him how much time he is spending on the air. Leo, who just recently got his Tech license says “Zero!” and laughs.

This is not uncommon. Lots of people seem to get a ham radio license and then do very little with it. I think one reason for this is that they don’t take into account how much time the hobby really can eat up.

They get their ticket because it seems like a cool thing to do, but then they have to carve out some time to actually be a ham radio operator. Even if you don’t make any of your own gear, setting up a station takes time, and then there is the operating time, of course. Carving time out of busy schedules—and I would guess that Laporte has a pretty busy schedule being the owner of TWiT—is a challenge.

I see things like this all the time. At one ham radio club meeting that I attended, the club vice president asked, “OK, here’s the question of the month. How many of you actually got on the air in the past month.” Less than half of those in attendance raised their hands. Geez, I thought to myself, why do they even bother to come to meetings if they don’t get on the air?

### Making time for ham radio

So, if you’re a busy person, how do you make time for ham radio? Well, being the Internet geek that I am, I Googled, “making time for things you love.” I got a lot of links to sites that talked about work-life balance and some new-age blogs, but none of them offered much in the way of concrete advice.

Then, I Googled “make time for hobbies” and right off the bat, I found two good articles—7 Creative Ways to Make Time For Your Creative Hobby! (<http://www.exploringwomanhood.com/homelife/hobbies/maketime.htm>) and 5 Ways to Make Time for Your Hobby (<http://o5.com/5-ways-to-make-time-for-your-hobby/>). Both articles offered very similar advice. Here are four points that both made:

1. Schedule it. Set aside a specific time during which you’re going to do ham radio. Don’t let that time get pre-empted.
2. Designate a place in your home for ham radio. Having to set up your radios or dig out your tools every time you want to operate or build something is not much fun and wastes a lot of time. Having a “shack” and a workspace designated for your projects will let you spend more time on the fun stuff.
3. Partner up. Arranging to work with another ham will make it harder to blow off ham radio for some other activity. Besides, it’s a lot of fun to do things with other hams. If you’re a newly licensed ham, find an Elmer. There really are plenty around who would be willing to help you.
4. Create a project plan. Setting up an amateur radio station is no small feat. Breaking it down into smaller chunks will make it seem more doable, and you’ll get a feeling of accomplishment when you meet your in-between goals.

There’s so much to learn and do in amateur radio that it can seem quite overwhelming. I think that’s one reason why so many Techs never really get into the hobby and why some experienced hams drift away. I think if you follow the advice above, though, you’ll not only find the time to pursue amateur radio, but get a lot more out of it.

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When he’s not down in his shack, working with a friend on yet another amateur radio project, Dan writes amateur radio study guides. You can find them on his website at [www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual](http://www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual). Make some time to e-mail him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings are the Second Wednesday

2012 DATES

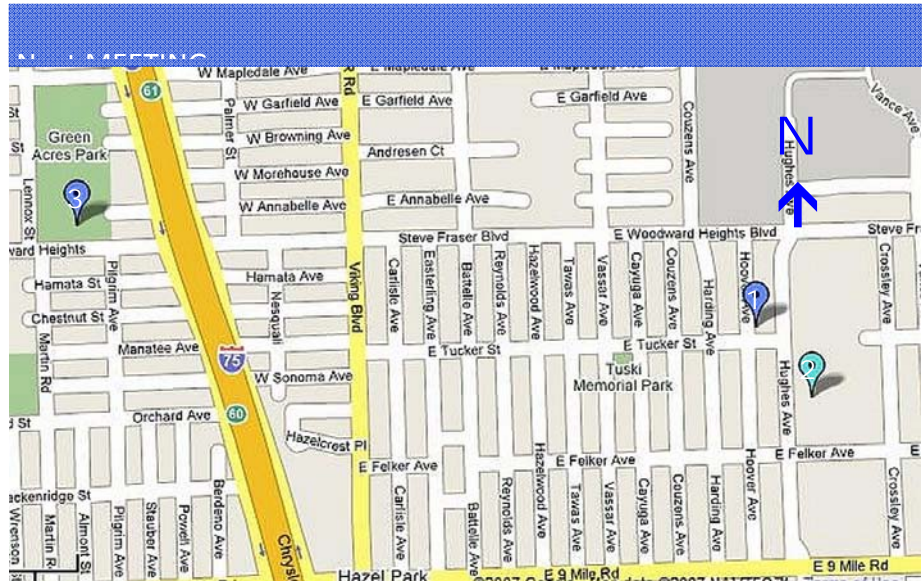
- February 8,
- March 14
- April 11
- May 9 Elections
- June 13 Banquet

TIME

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

PLACE

Hoover Elementary  
23720 Hoover Ave.  
Hazel Park 48030



1 meeting 2 Swap 3 Picnic

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

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

