

The Zero Beat

THIS MEETING

December 18, 2013
7:30 P.M.
 (socializing begins at 7)
Hoover Elementary School
23720 Hoover Ave.
Hazel Park 48030

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GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will be held on Wednesday, December 18, at 7:30 PM. This is our annual Christmas party. Celebrate with friends in this time of good cheer! The party will feature the usual food and potluck. Also, the club is accepting donations of toys for less fortunate Hoover School students. See the President's QRM below for details.

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

Anyone wishing to join the club, please go to the website www.hparc.org. Fill out the membership form and bring a printed copy to the meeting. Membership forms can also be filled out onsite before the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S QRM

Our December meeting is unique in our clubs history in being on the third Wednesday of the month. This is due to there being a Hoover School PTA use of the gym on the second Wednesday. I certainly hope the change doesn't inconvenience anybody. But it does put our social celebration a week closer to Christmas, so perhaps it is a fortunate change.

Once again this year we are helping the school provide a bit more happiness, in the form of gifts for those less fortunate than us, by donating toys or money to the school's Christmas gift program. This is about as close to home as we can get for doing a bit of good. An unwrapped toy, or a check made out to Hoover Elementary School, or even cash, are the donations we intend to pass along.

This gathering will have food similar to

last year. The club will be providing beverages, plates and plastic ware, pizza, and chicken, and Jimi's restaurant will be donating salad. The rest of the food will be pot-luck, my suggestions are to bring something appropriate for a Christmas party meal. That should allow a lot of options. Be sure to mark your serving spoons and your dishes so that we can be sure they get back to you. This will be primarily a social gathering, although we may attempt to have a few moments of business meeting at the start.

A reminder to board members and interested parties is that the December board meeting will be at the STAR restaurant, which is on John R in the second block SOUTH of 11 Mile road. They have a much larger parking lot and all of the parking is free.

(Continued on page 2)

OFFICERS

- **President:** Bill Ketel
N8QVS 248-544-2452
wkettel2@wowway.com
- **1st VP:** Jim Poehlman
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- **Director:** Jerry Begel W9NPI
w9npi@comcast.net
- **Parliamentarian:**
Ed Walton N8LBS
248-649-5851 waltoned@sbcglobal.net

VOLUNTEERS

- **Technical Coordinator & W8HP Trustee :**
Murray Scott
KE8UM@arrl.net
- **W8JXU Trustee:**
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Education/VE Testing:**
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- **Contest Mentors:**
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- **LoTW Manager:**
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- **Newsletter:**
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- **VUCC/WAS Awards Card Checker:** Sean Fleming
K8KHZ k8khz@yahoo.com
- **Siren Tests:**
Marsha Fleming N8FE
248-542-9573
Assist Ed Walton N8LBS
- **Meeting Coffee:**
Bernie Hildebrand W8NBC
- **Donuts:** Rey Bora W8REY
- **Sunday Net:** Bill Ketel
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wkettel2@wowway.com
- **Banquet:** Rey Bora W8REY
rey62@aol.com
- **Field Day Chair:**
John Teagardin, AA8UU
aa8uu@arrl.net
- **HPARC Official Cook:**
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Swap:** Swap Chair
Bernie Hildebrand W8NBC
bernieah@hotmail.com
- **Holiday Party:** The Board
- **Webmaster:** Larry Koziel
K8MU k8mu@amsat.org
- **Oak Apple Run Royal Oak:**
Mike WD8S
- **MS Walk Chair:**
Phil AA8KR 586-838-4139
- **Walk for Babies Chair:**
Jim K8ABZ
k8abz1@gmail.com

QRM, CONT'D.

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Don't forget that our swap is coming up on January 12, 2014. This is our club's only fund raising effort, so help out and support your club. The setup will be on January 11, I don't know exactly when, but probably in the afternoon.

William, N8QVS

GENERAL CLASS
LICENSE COURSE

The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will host a General Class Amateur License Course.

WHEN: Mondays, January 13, 2014 to April 21, 2014

TIME: 7 pm to 9 pm for 15 weeks

WHERE: City of Oak Park Recreation Center

14300 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI 48237

COST: FREE Instruction.

License Manual (\$25)

Oak Park Room Fee: \$15.

BONUS: FCC License Exam at Last Session (\$15 fee)

Registration: Pre-registration Necessary, by January 6, 2013

Prerequisite: Technician Class Amateur Radio License, or C SCE showing Element 2 exam credit.

Contact the Instructor: Wallace Murray KE8HR @ 248-685-8485 or email KE8HR@arrl.net

SIREN NET RECAP

Thank you all for helping out with the 2013 Siren tests. The SE Subnet sirens were all covered by October and we were again able to help to other subnets check the rest of the sirens. Without each and every one of you volunteering your time this would not have been possible.

I want to thank Ed N8LBS for his continued work as my partner in crime. He's always right there to jump in as needed. 88 Ed for a job well done and for being a great friend.

Marsha Fleming N8FE

HPARC NETS

HPARC Official Sunday Night 2-meter Phone Net

Every Sunday at 9:00 PM local time on the DART repeater, 146.64 (PL 100), catch up on club news and information, and just to keep in touch. All amateurs are welcome to check in.

N8WYO CW net (Medium speed)

Named in memory of Al N8WYO. The net meets Tuesday night at 8:00 PM on **28.028 MHz**. All amateurs are welcome. CW speed fluctuates between 20-25 WPM, but Joe will slow it down if necessary. Listen in at 8 PM sharp!

Wolverine Net

The 75 Meter Wolverine Net meets on 3935 KHz daily at 7:00 PM local time, with pre-net starting at 6:00 PM. You can get details from <http://www.wssbn.com/>

Oakland County ARPSC

Every Thursday @ 8 pm on 146.90 (PL 100). Hospital Radio Net on last Thursday of each month @7:30. (W8OAK-3 will run packet on 147.56 MHz for those wanting to practice and test their equipment) <http://www.arpdc.com/>

NTS Traffic Nets

The Southeast Michigan National Traffic System (NTS) net Normally held every night at 10:15 PM local time on the 146.76 (PL 100) repeater. New people are welcome.

HAMFESTS

12/08/2013 LCARC Amateur Radio/Computer Swap 8-12

L'Anse Creuse HS, 38495 L'Anse Creuse, Harrison Twp, MI (Metro Pkwy to Crocker Blvd north to Reimold St)

<http://www.qsl.net/n8lc/swap.htm>

Talk-in: 147.080 (PL 100)

Upcoming

1/12/2014 Hazel Park Hamfest

2/16/2014 Livonia Swap-N-Shop

AROUND TOWN

HPARC Buddy Breakfast every Saturday @ 9 AM (or so)

Jimi's Restaurant, 714 South Washington Ave, Royal Oak (across from OCC). Come for the socializing — we're in the back room. Parking: lots of spaces in Jimi's parking lot, and street parking is free until 11 AM.

Oakland Co. ARPSC Siren Testing, 1st Saturday @ 1 PM

Resumes in March 2014.

Macomb Community College Electronic Lab

Now 4th Wednesday of each month from 7-10 PM. 12 Mile & Hayes Rd. (Bldg "S" - Room S135) Extensive collection of equipment to use/learn plus a ham radio station to use and a big 3 element HF Yagi antenna on the roof of the building. Hams are invited from all clubs.

Amateur Radio License Testing

HPARC and the City of Oak Park offer amateur radio license testing on the first Tuesday of even months at the Oak Park, Michigan Community Center (14300 Oak Park Blvd, Oak Park, MI 48237) beginning at 7:30 PM.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Gordon Scannell
KD8COJ

FOR SALE

Tower for sale cheap: I have 40 feet of heavy duty steel tower that I would much rather somebody else owned. It comes with three posts for a ground mount but without any guy wires or brackets. It is presently in my yard, disassembled and ready to take away. This is not a ROHN 25tower, it is quite a bit heavier, and stiffer. So make me an offer, OK?

Bill N8QVS

THE AB577 TOWER



By Alan Eshleman K6SRZ

Editor's note: This is the tower Murray KE8UM brings to Field Day every year. Many members have said they'd like their own. Read on, as the days of picking one up cheap at Dayton have passed.

Sometime before the 100th Anniversary of the U.S. Army Signal Corps in June 1960 the Corps commissioned a new piece of equipment: a 50 foot field deployable antenna tower designated AB577. We know this because the June 21, 1960 official program of 100th anniversary festivities at Ft. Monmouth [Signal Corps Hq. until 1965 when headquarters shifted to Ft. Gordon, Georgia] lists the AB 577 as one of the exhibits on view from the Engineering design division.

The AB 577 went on to support US troops in Vietnam and in the Desert Storm campaign before finally being rendered obsolete and surplus. Most AB577s are painted Army olive drab, though my own AB577 sports Desert Storm desert camouflage. It is as a surplus item that the AB577 has enjoyed widespread adoption by radio amateurs.

Often dubbed the "rocket launcher" tower, the AB577

consists of interlocking sections of five-foot aluminum tubes that are inserted at the base of the tower, connected to the tube above, and then raised into place by a hand-cranked winch. The tower is held in place by three sets of stainless steel guy wires. On a windless day a single person can erect an AB577, though this is dangerous. It's much better to have a crew of four or five. The AB577 is an almost perfect solution for a field day tower. My own local radio club, REDXA, has a set of three AB577s that on Field Day support a pair of tribanders and a 2-element 40 M yagi.

Who designed the AB577 and when the first prototype was constructed so far remain mysteries. The Signal Corps librarian at Ft. Gordon was kind enough to supply the Signal Corps anniversary program, but could find no references to the tower at any earlier date. The agency responsible for the design of the AB577 was the US Army Communication and Electronic Command (USACECOM). The Army's purpose for the tower was to support the 1425 microwave dish antenna. [Extension kit: MK 806/GRC Antenna Support AB 857/GRC AT 903/G horn type microwave antennas (a pair)] for F-band (90 –

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AB577 TOWER CONT'D



requests for a proposal to develop a prototype QEAM – quick erect antenna mast – which could be erected by two men in less than 15 minutes. Smith and his two brothers developed a carbon fiber mast that was accepted by the Army but never went into mass production and eventually their design was dropped. The prototype now resides in Bill Smith's garage. The QEAM project appears to have survived however. A Web search of "QEAM" reveals QEAMs of various sizes, from 15 feet to well over 100 feet are still being produced.

The AB577 is much more than a Field Day tower. The structure is strong enough to easily support a full-sized triband yagi and, using the supplied lever arm, can be "arm strong" rotated a full 360 degrees. Many AB577s are being used in semi-permanent installations, avoiding the need to pour a massive concrete base for the tower. And because the tower is classified as a temporary structure, the AB 577 has allowed some hams to avoid needing the building permits required for permanent, in-ground installations.

140 GHz) and J-band (10 - 20 GHz) communication.

To acquire an AB577 today, a ham needs either to find a used unit at a hamfest or swap meet or purchase one from Ontario Surplus (that's Ontario New York). Ben Brown, owner of Ontario Surplus told me that he has seen drawings for components of the AB577 with the stamps of both the U.S. Army Signal Material Support Agency and the Brooks and Perkins Company of Detroit dated October 1961. Brooks and Perkins may have been the first company to produce the AB 577 in quantity, but other manufacturers also produced the unit.

The most recent supplier of AB 577s was the J&H Smith Company of Lamar SC, which won a competitive bid to produce the AB 577 and manufactured approximately 2,200 units until the late 1980s. J&H Smith also manufactured 800 AB 621 towers, a taller "big brother" version of the AB 577 and an extension kit for the AB 577 that allowed it to reach a height of 73 feet. I have one of these extension kits, but not the courage to try it out. The AB577 sold to the Army for about \$2,200. According to Bill Smith, one of the original partners in J&H Smith, the AB 577 was designated for replacement and the Signal Corps sought

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**MEETING MINUTES -
NOVEMBER 2013**

The meeting was called to order by the president, Bill N8QVS at 7:30 PM. The president greeted welcomed everyone.

The following meeting changes were announced: December Board Meeting will be held on 11 December 2013 and our December party will be on the third Wednesday of December, 18 December 2013. For the party the club will supply chicken, pizza and pop. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass or desserts. This year we will collect unwrapped toys or checks made out to Hoover Middle School for our community donation project.

There were 3 license upgrades reported: JD Devine went from zero to General Class plus 2 new Technician Class were earned by others

The club welcomed 1 new member: Gordon Scannell KD8COJ.

Introduction of all attendees were made.

Swap News: Bernie W8NBC again solicited volunteers for ticket sales at the doors. Bernie will supply the talk-in radio setup, but we still need operators.

Our monthly presentation was presented by Larry K8MU our 2nd vice-president. Larry talked about the scheduled launch on 21 December 2013 of a "Fun Cube" type satellite carrying Amateur Radio equipment that is cosponsored by AMSAT-UK and AMSAT-NL. The launch will be performed using a converted Soviet SS-18 ICBM Larry is very knowledgeable member of the US AMSAT organization and passed along a lot of information about AMSAT (Amateur Radio Satellite) projects and this scheduled launch in particular.

Treasurer report was presented by Bob KD8AMP. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report pending audit. The motion passed unanimously.

A break was held.

Other news: John A8UU our Field day chairman announced that HPARC placed 13th in our category this year. It was reported that the repeater East site is down and the cause is being researched. DX and Contesting report was made by Gerry K8GT listing many island group stations scheduled to be operating in the near future and the CQ World Wide CW contest is the 4th weekend in November. Paul KE8UD announced a DXpedition from Hawaii. Jim

**SUNDAY NIGHT NET
CHECK-INS**

Here are 2 meter net checkins through June through November.

KD8SAA	Barb	26	1 checkin:	
W8NBC	Bernie	26		
KE8UM	Murray	24	K8HJU	Ed
N8LBS	Ed	24	K8KHZ	Sean
KD8AMP	Bob	22	K8PEJ	Mike
N8QVS	Bill	23	KD4BIO	Ken
KD8LWC	Walt	20	KD8MFR	Bruce
KD8NYB	Chuck	21	KD8RCU	Doug
KD8SPD	Dan	21	KD8SBL	Ron
KF8UU	Less	20	KD8THQ	Josh
AA8OZ	Paul	19	KD8UMB	Ed
KE8UD	Paul	17	KD8UNJ	Robert
KD8STM	Mike	10	KD8VXZ	JD
K8ABZ	Jim	10	KI8JL	Roy
AB8RH	Don	7	N8AAU	Mike
AA8UU	John	6	N8CPH	Josh
N8ZU	Ray	5	N8FE	Marsha
KD8QBA	Mike	3	N8FM	Steve
KD8UMV	Sean	3	N8ZU	Tony
KD8UMZ	Tony	3	N8ZZE	John
N8AE	Carl	3	VA3TGN	Tim
N8RLN	Brian	3	W8HL	Lee
K8JRE	Joe	2	W9NPI	Jerry
KD8ROQ	Frank	2	WB3CGH	Mike
W1IK	Jim	2		

K8LFE reminded us about the L'Anse Crreuse ARC Swap meet to be held on 8 December 2013. Jerry W9NPI announced VE test sessions scheduled for December 3rd and 12th. A drawing for the VHF Mobile radio was held and the radio was won by JD Devine.

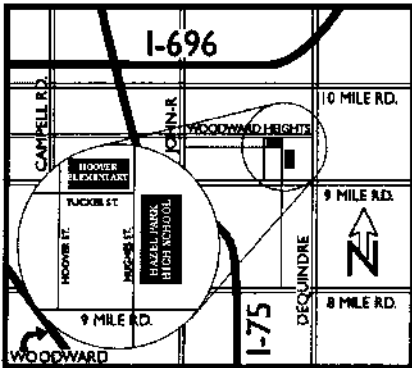
Club officers present: President Bill N8QVS, 1st Vice President Jim K8ABZ, 2nd Vice President Larry K8MU, Treasurer Bob KD8AMP, Secretary Walt kD8LWC, Parliamentarian Ed N8LBS and Director Jerry W9NPI.

Respectfully submitted,
Walt KD8LWC

HAZEL PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 48th ANNUAL HAMFEST

Hazel Park High School - 23400 Hughes - Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

January 12, 2014 - 8:00 AM til 12:00 NOON
W8HP - Talk-in 146.640(100hz.pl) D.A.R.T. Repeater
 Tables \$15.00 **TICKETS \$5.00** Plenty of Free Parking
 Vendor Setup : 6AM **WITH PAID ADMISSION**



23400 Hughes • Hazel Park, MI

PRIZES	
1ST	CASH PRIZE \$100.00
2ND	CASH PRIZE \$50.00
3RD	CASH PRIZE \$25.00



E-mail Address: W8NBC@arrl.net

Phone: Bernie Hildebrand 248-506-3502 Web Site: WWW.HPARC.ORG

Tickets and Table Reservation Mail-in Coupon

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone() _____ Email _____

Tickets ____ x \$5.00 ____ Tables ____ x \$15.00 ____ Enclosed \$ ____

MAIL TO: H.P.A.R.C. INC. SWAP, P.O. BOX 368 HAZEL PARK, MI 48030

**TO RESERVE PREVIOUS YEAR'S LOCATION,
TABLE RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 5, 2014**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2013 DATES

December 18*
*due to school schedule

2014 DATES

January 8
February 12

TIME

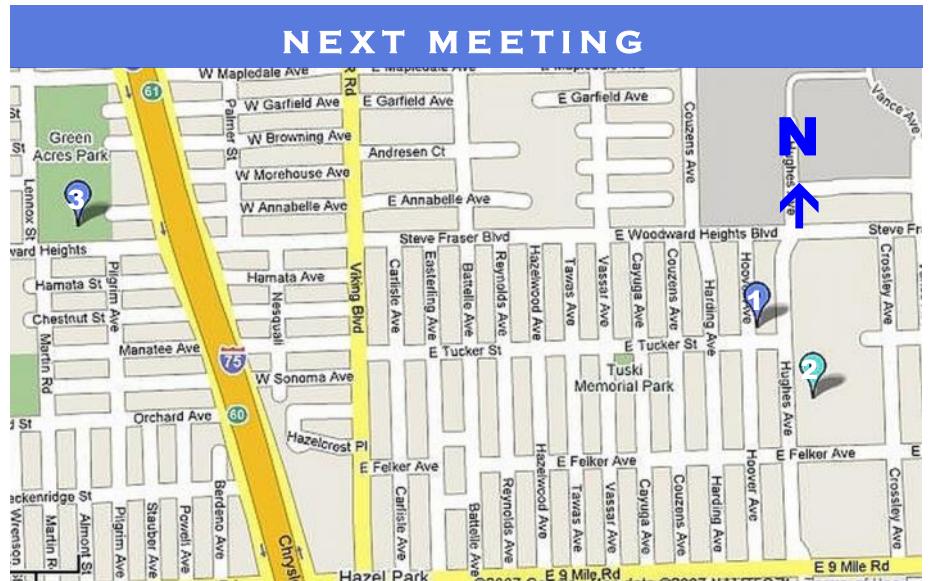
Socializing @ 7:00 PM
Meeting @ 7:30 PM

PLACE

Hoover Elementary School
23720 Hoover Ave.
Hazel Park 48030

Hamfest

January 12, 2014



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?