

The Zero Beat

THIS MEETING

March 19, 2014
7:30 P.M.
 (socializing begins at 7)
Hoover Elementary School
23720 Hoover Ave.
Hazel Park 48030

CONTENTS

ARISS Update	3
Around Town	4
Banquet	2
Contests	6
Dayton Bus	6
Hamfests	6
License Stats	4
Meeting Minutes	7
Net Checkins	7
Nets	4
Officers/Volunteers	2
QRM	1
Silent Key	3
Solar Cycle 24	5
Swap Recap	3

GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will be held on Wednesday, March 19, at 7:30 PM. This month we are delayed one week due to bad weather, and back at our usual location, Hoover Elementary School, 23720 Hoover Ave, Hazel Park. Jerry Begel W9NPI will talk on "A Brief History of Military Communications - some things we may have missed." He will talk about the adoption of radio by the military, how "friend or foe" recognition went from crickets to transponders, propaganda, and the technological consequences of the "Red Menace." Larry K8MU will report on the ARISS contact.

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

We are back to our normal meeting place at Hoover Elementary school in Hazel Park, at the regular 7 PM gathering time with a 7:30 call to order time planned. I look forward to seeing everybody there..

The ARISS adventure continues: The ground team has been given a go-ahead that the contact can be as scheduled on: Fri 2014-03-14 11:30:59 UTC/07:30:59 EDT. We are go for your contact!) So the project will be happening. This is good news because there were some concerns earlier.

Aside from everything else associated with the project it is a great chance to present amateur radio to a bunch of interested people. Special thanks to Larry K8MU for both his work and his

enthusiasm.

We have made it to March, which means that we are getting ready for the election of officers at the May meeting. We have an election committee in place and now all that we need are candidates willing to be part of making the club function for another year. So if one of the election committee asks you to run for some office, please consider if you have the skills to do that job, and then sign up as a candidate.

Other news is that our club has been approved for using Camp Hazelwood for our field day site once again. Our club has been very fortunate to have such a great venue for this activity. I hear tales and see pictures of the rugged areas and venues that some groups wind up using for field day and I am

(Continued on page 2)

OFFICERS

- **President:** Bill Ketel
N8QVS 248-544-2452
wkettel2@wowway.com
- **1st VP:** Jim Poehlman
K8ABZ 248-310-0086
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- **Secretary:** Walt Carter
KD8LWC 248-548-4645
pidge4645@aol.com
- **Treasurer:** Bob Lauer
KD8AMP 248 652-4211
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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:**
Jerry Begel W9NPI
w9npi@comcast.net
- **Contest Mentors:**
Mike WD8S wd8s@arrl.net
Gerry K8GT k8gt@arrl.net
- **Public Information Officer:**
Jerry Begel W9NPI
w9npi@comcast.net
- **LoTW Manager:**
Murray Scott KE8UM
ke8um@arrl.net
- **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
N8QVS 248-544-2452
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.

(Continued from page 1)

reminded as to how fortunate we are. For those who have not visited Hazelwood, it is a nice clean place with indoor plumbing and showers and bunkhouses and a decent kitchen, refrigerators, and good stove, so that we can have good meals without a huge amount of work. All of this just a mile north of the Mount Holly ski hill. More details will be provided as field day approaches. The dates this year are Saturday June 28 and Sunday June 29.

Don't forget the club banquet, which will be on Wednesday, June 11, once again at DeCarlo's Banquet center. We have had good luck with this venue, and they have lots of free parking.

Bill Ketel N8QVS, President

ANNUAL BANQUET

Once again on June 11 we will be enjoying one of our social activities at the DeCarlo's banquet center. Come and join your fellow club members for an enjoyable evening and a great social event. The banquet is a family event, the only one of the year intended for the whole family. There will be lots of time for socializing, and no business meeting. This is the time when we install the new slate of officers who will serve our club for the next year.

This year promises to be even better than last year, with entertainment and many excellent door prizes.

You need to get your tickets in advance, so that we can be sure to have enough food and seating for everybody. Tickets will not be sold at the door, though you can pick up prepaid tickets when you arrive. You can buy tickets at the meetings or at breakfast at Jimi's on Saturdays, or by sending a check or money order to Rey Bora, our banquet chairperson. Tickets are \$20 each, no increase in several years, still a good deal for an enjoyable gathering.

Contact Rey for additional information or to make other arrangements via e-mail at REY62@AOL.com, or phone (586) 909-9820. Be sure to put "HPARC Banquet" in the subject line so that Rey will know it isn't junk mail.

A R I S S C O N T A C T S U C C E S S F U L

Many hours of hard work paid off for HPARC when the club facilitated a contact from the Macomb MSTC middle school in Warren to the International Space Station on Friday, March 14. Larry K8MU and a crew of volunteers mounted antennas on the roof in lousy weather, strung hundreds of feet of cables, set up and tested two complete 2-meter stations, and practiced tracking the ISS by listening in on other ARISS QSOs. The result was a nearly flawless contact, delighting an auditorium full of middle schoolers.

Those who did not get up to monitor the contact live at 7:20 AM can see a recording at the MMSTC web site, <http://www.wcs.k12.mi.us/mmstc/>. The video is on the front page of the school site. It can also be seen at

<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/44868806>.

At the 12 minute mark, Larry K8MU explains what will happen, to an enthusiastic audience, though it's still before 7:00 AM. The audio is a little rough in this section. Around 38 minutes, W8HP makes contact with the ISS "club station" NA1SS. The ISS operator is Koichi Wakata KC5ZTA, a Japanese astronaut and current Space Station commander.

It's hard to believe that the whole project, start to finish, came together in less than 90 days. So congratulations to all the members and volunteers who made this possible!

Look for a report at the April meeting and in a future issue of the *Zero Beat*.

G E R A L D F A S S E W 8 G F , S K



The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club has learned belatedly of the death of Gerald Fasse W8GF. His brother Dick W8SJ wrote that Jerry died on January 5, 2014, at age 82, after a six-month fight with cancer.

Jerry W8GF was a licensed amateur for over 65 years and a long-time HPARC member. He was also a Korean War veteran. Dick Fasse wrote that his brother got him interested in ham radio 58 years ago and encouraged him in the hobby since then. A newspaper obituary can be found at <http://goo.gl/Uth9An>.

H P A R C H A M F E S T R E S U L T S

As you all know by now, our 2014 Swap has come and gone. The swap had a lower attendance than last year but the number of vendors was slightly higher. Having attended several swaps in the previous 3 or 4 months, the attendance fell in line with others. A lot of them had very many empty tables. On the local scale I would say we still have the LARGEST swap. We made a profit which looked good but was down because of the attendance.

I am now gearing up for the 2015 swap and hope to bring things up in attendance by both vendors and visitors. With that, I hope we can get people from the club to help as they have for the last few swaps. GO 2015 HPARC SWAP.

Bernie W8NBC



H P A R C N E T S

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.

A R O U N D T O W N

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

Pre-net on the DART Repeater, 146.640, around 12:30 PM. April only – test moved to Wednesday, April 9. Contact Marsha N8FE for assignments.

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



2013 LICENSE STATISTICS

The ARRL has provided statistics for FCC amateur radio licenses issued in 2012. Licenses were issued to 25,621 Technician, 9,567 General and 3,023 Extra licensees, for a total of 38,211 issued. Of these, 28,886 were new licenses, so 9,325 were upgrades. The numbers also show that 3,265 jumped into the hobby at the General or Extra level. The number of new licenses increased by 7% over 2012.

The total number of amateur licenses went from

709,575 at the end of 2012 to 717,201 at the end of 2013, an increase of 1.1%. As low as that may sound, it was still greater than the population increase in the United States, just 0.7%, according to the Census Bureau.

Another statistic: only 21% of U.S. hams are members of the ARRL.

(Data courtesy of ARRL)

SUNSPOT CYCLE UPDATE

By Wes Plouff AC8JF

Sunspot Cycle 24 has been perplexing, partly because it has seen the weakest solar activity in a hundred years, with sunspot numbers reaching only half the maximum of a typical 20th century cycle. This has led to predictions that Cycle 25 will be even smaller, or nonexistent. The Internet global warming denial crowd has latched onto Cycle 24 as “proof” that temperatures will stop rising.

The top chart shows how weak Cycle 24 is compared to the three previous solar cycles. It’s the lowest trace by far.

Regardless of this, the HF bands have been doing quite well in the last year. Predictions were that the peak would be reached in fall 2013. But that doesn’t quite square with conditions like this:

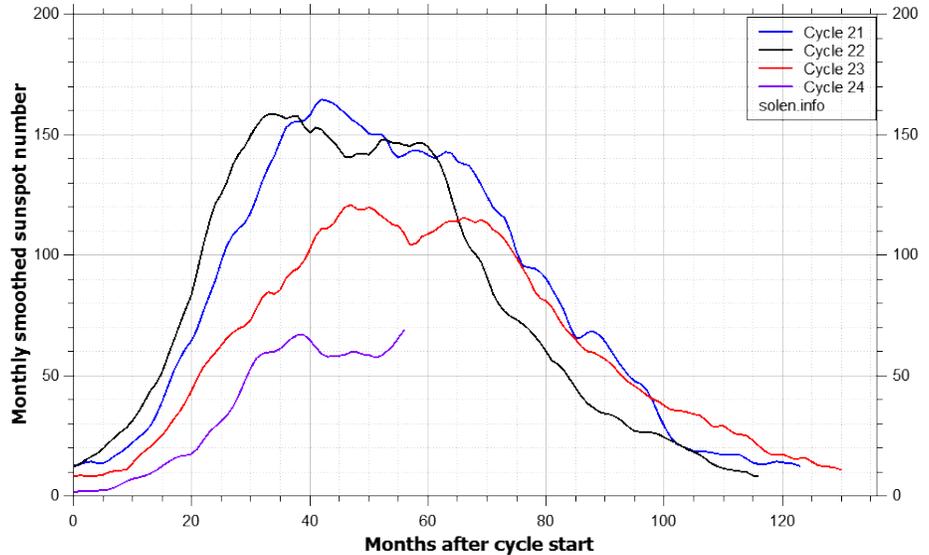
Band	Day	Night
80n-40n	Poor	Good
30n-20n	Fair	Good
17n-15n	Good	Good
12n-10n	Good	Poor
Geonag Field	QUIET	
Sig Noise Lvl	S1-S2	
ChE (UTC)	None	
(C) P Herrman NONBH 2013		

This winter has seen 10 meters open worldwide on some days, and 15 or 20 meters open around the clock on most days.

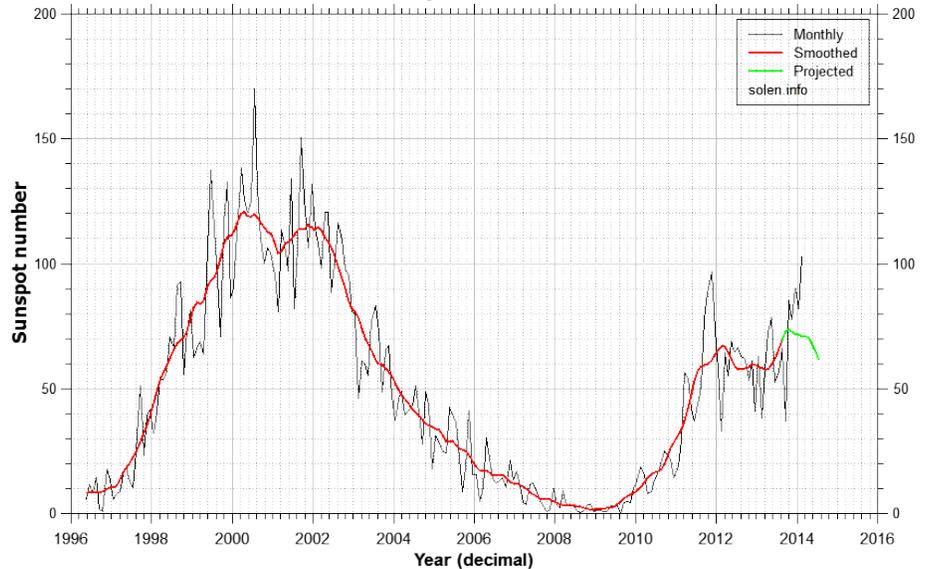
So what’s happening? Recent observations show that sunspot activity in the Sun’s northern hemisphere is dying down, but sunspot numbers in the solar south are still rising. This means, as can be seen on the second large chart, that Cycle 24 will likely have a double peak, just like Cycle 23. There could be months more of frequent DX ahead.

Farther ahead, it’s likely no one knows very well what will happen. Cycle 24 might not be as weak as predicted. The

Last solar cycles comparison



Cycles 23-24



current sunspot levels probably don’t tell us anything about what will happen when the next sunspot cycle starts around 2020. But for now, we can at least enjoy an extra season of good propagation.

(Charts are reprinted by permission of Jan Alvestad, from his site <http://www.solen.info/solar/>.)

CONTESTS

For details visit the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) or the [ARRL Contest Roundup](#)

March 2014

- 1-2 [ARRL International DX Contest, SSB](#)
- 5-6, 8-9 [AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest](#)
- 8-9 [RSGB Commonwealth Contest – closed to US hams](#)
- 8-9 [EA PSK63 Contest](#)
- 8-9 [Idaho QSO Party](#)
- 8-9 [Wisconsin QSO Party](#)
- 15-17 [BARTG HF RTTY Contest](#)
- 15-16 [F9AA Cup, SSB](#)
- 15-16 [Russian DX Contest](#)
- 15-16 [Virginia QSO Party](#)
- 22 [FOC QSO Party](#)
- 22-23 [Oklahoma QSO Party](#)
- 22-23 [Louisiana QSO Party](#)
- 22-23 [QCWA Spring QSO Party](#)
- 29-30 [CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB](#)

April 2014

- 19-20 [Michigan QSO Party](#)

June 2014

- 28-29 [Field Day](#)

W1AW PORTABLE

W1AW is celebrating the ARRL Centennial year by operating portable in all 50 states and many US territories. The station will go on the air from each state twice, so if you miss a state before the end of June, there's a second chance waiting in summer and fall.

March 2014

- 5-11 [Idaho, Kentucky](#)
- 12-18 [Arizona, Ohio](#)
- 19-25 [Tennessee, New Mexico, Guam \(KH2\)](#)
- 26-1 [Iowa, Vermont](#)

April 2014

- 2-8 [Pennsylvania, Oregon](#)
- 9-15 [Massachusetts, Virginia, Puerto Rico \(KP4\)](#)

HAMFESTS

3/15/2014 Crossroads Hamfest 8-12

Marshall Activity Ctr, 15325 W. Michigan Ave, Marshall, MI (I-94 to I-69 south to Marshall M-96 exit, then just west of freeway)

http://www.w8df.com/hamfest/Hamfest_flyer2014.pdf

Talk-in: 146.66 (PL 94.8)

3/16/2014 TMRA Hamfest (Toledo) 8-2

Owens Community College, 30335 Oregon Rd, Perrysburg, OH (I-75 exit 198, east on Wales Rd to first light, then south on Oregon Rd)

<http://www.tmrahamradio.org/hamfest.php>

Talk-in: 147.27 (PL 103.5)

3/22/2014 Ham-Ex (Toronto area) 8-1

Brampton Fall Fair, 12942 Heart Lake Road, Caledon, ON (about 4 hours from Hazel Park, passport or enhanced drivers license required)

<http://www.ham-ex.ca/>

Talk-in: 146.88 (no PL), 145.43 (PL 103.5)

Upcoming

- 4/12 – [Milford Swap, Highland Twp \(Milford\)](#)
- 5/16-5/18 – [Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH](#)

DAYTON BUS

Once again the ARROW club in Ann Arbor is sponsoring a bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention on Saturday, May 17. The bus leaves at 4:30 AM, arriving at Hara Arena around 8:00 AM, just as the Hamvention opens. ARROW will offer bus riders space at their flea market booth to sell odds and ends in return for an hour of volunteering. The club also brags that the bus has plenty of space to carry home goodies purchased at the Hamvention. The bus leaves Dayton around 5:00 PM for the return trip.

Tickets are \$65.00 and can be purchased by mail or online. In return for an hour's drive at oh dark thirty, you can relax on the way down and back. For more details, see the ARROW web page at

<http://www.w8pgw.org/activities/dayton-bus-trip/>.

**MEETING MINUTES -
FEBRUARY 2014**

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

Introductions of all attendees were made.

This meeting was held at the Warren Consolidated Schools (WCS) Butcher Education Center. 2nd Vice President Larry K8MU hosted the presentation featuring the scheduled WCS/ISS (International Space Station) Radio Contact. Selected WCS students will be able to ask the astronauts questions and receive answers via a live radio link between WCS and ISS. The contact with ISS will be the week of March 10th. More information is available on our club forum (<http://forum.hparc.org>). Larry also presented a brief history of human space to earth communications.

ISS downlink frequency will be 145.800 MHz (+/- 3 KHz for Doppler effect). The downlink for the \$50SAT (also known as Eagle2) is 437.505 MHz +/- 10 KHz for Doppler effect.

A break was held.

Treasurer Report: Bob KD8AMP reported that the swap made a profit and listed the other items on the club balance sheet. Motion made by Bernie W8NBC and seconded by Ed N8LBS to accept the treasurer report as read pending audit. Motion passed by voice vote.

No Secretary report: Last monthly meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

A new plasticized roll up type Club Banner has been placed on order. Bernie W8NBC will fabricate a suitable case for the new banner.

DX and Contest news: Gerry K8GT announced that he and Chuck KD8NYB are teaching a Technician class at Lawrence Technical University in Southfield on Friday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. This weekend is the ARRL CW DX Contest. Gerry also reported that we are in a second peak of Sun cycle 24.

Motion made by Ed N8LBS and seconded by Chuck KD8NYB to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by voice vote.

Club officers present: President Bill N8QVS, 1st Vice President Jim K8ABZ, 2nd Vice President Larry K8MU, Treasurer Bob KD8AMP, Secretary Walt KD8LWC,

**SUNDAY NIGHT NET
CHECK-INS**

Here are cumulative 2 meter net checkins from June 2013 through March 2, 2014.

			1 checkin:
KD8SAA	Barb	39	
W8NBC	Bernie	39	K8HJU Ed
KE8UM	Murray	37	K8KHZ Sean
N8QVS	Bill	34	K8PEJ Mike
KD8NYB	Chuck	33	KB3EHW Reuben
KD8SPD	Dan	33	KB8NJP Lamar
KF8UU	Les	33	KB8UMA Mike
KD8AMP	Bob	31	KB8WLU Paul
N8LBS	Ed	30	KC8FZR Mark
AA8OZ	Paul	26	KD4BIO Ken
KE8UD	Paul	26	KD8COJ Gordon
KD8LWC	Walt	20	KD8MFR Bruce
K8ABZ	Jim	14	KD8RCU Doug
KD8STM	Mike	10	KD8THQ Josh
AB8RH	Don	7	KD8UMB Ed
AA8UU	John	6	KD8UNJ Robert
N8AE	Carl	5	KD8VXZ JD
N8ZU	Ray	5	KD8WAP Jeff
KD8SBL	Ron	4	KI8JL Roy
N8RLN	Brian	4	N8AAU Mike
KD8QBA	Mike	3	N8CPH Josh
KD8UMV	Sean	3	N8FE Marsha
KD8UMZ	Tony	3	N8FM Steve
K8JRE	Joe	2	N8ZZE John
KD8ROQ	Frank	2	VA3TGN Tim
N8ZU	Ray	2	W8HL Lee
W1IK	Jim	2	W8VPC Mike
			W9NPI Jerry
			WB3CGH Mike

MINUTES CONT'D

Parliamentarian ED N8LBS and Director Jerry W9NPI.

Respectfully submitted,
Walt
KD8LWC

MARK
ROY
CROSS
ROADS

2014 DATES

March 12
April 16
*(one week later
than normal)
May 14

TIME

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

PLACE

Hoover Elementary School
23720 Hoover Ave.
Hazel Park 48030

Banquet

June 11



1 Meeting 2 Swap 3 Picnic



Scan this QR code to visit the
HPARC web site



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



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