

# The Zero Beat

## THIS MEETING

**April 16, 2014**  
**7:30 P.M.**  
 (socializing begins at 7)  
**Hoover Elementary School**  
**23720 Hoover Ave.**  
**Hazel Park 48030**

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## GENERAL MEETING

The regular HPARC meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 16, at 7:30 PM. This month we meet on the third Wednesday due to the Hazel Park Schools' schedule. Meeting location is the Hoover Elementary School gym, 23720 Hoover, Hazel Park, MI 48030.

This month's business meeting items include approval of the 2014-15 budget, and nomination of candidates for next year's slate of officers.

Steve Kaatz K8SDK will present a program on his maritime mobile expedition to Antarctica, featured in the March 2014 issue of QST. In December 2012, Steve took a ten day cruise from the southern tip of Argentina to the Antarctic Peninsula. He'll talk about operating from the bridge of the National Geographic Explorer, with a friendly ship's crew but unusual limits on when he could go on the air. He'll also describe the spectacular sights he saw.

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](http://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

Finally most of the snow is gone and we should not have any more meetings canceled or delayed by snow days. This has been a bad year for that problem. But our April meeting is moved back one week, to the sixteenth, because of the school being closed for spring break the second week of the month.

At the meeting this month we will be nominating officers for the election in May. And if you are approached by the nominating committee, please consider carefully if you are able and willing to serve as a club officer. For those who don't run, please support your elected

officers as they lead for the following year.

Don't forget the installation of officers and the issuing of awards that happens at our June banquet. This is also our social event, a good time for fellowship, and the only club activity of the year with a bar available. To get your tickets contact Rey Bora, W8REY, 586 909 9820. See the ad elsewhere in this issue for the details.

We are still getting compliments on the great job that Larry and his team did on the ARISS contact project. It really was a "big deal" in that it involved pulling together a whole lot of resources and then making them

*(Continued on page 2)*

## OFFICERS

- **President:** Bill Ketel  
N8QVS 248-544-2452  
[wkettel2@wowway.com](mailto:wkettel2@wowway.com)
- **1st VP:** Jim Poehlman  
K8ABZ 248-310-0086  
[k8abz1@gmail.com](mailto:k8abz1@gmail.com)
- **2nd VP:** Larry Koziel  
K8MU 586-770-2545  
[k8mu@amsat.org](mailto:k8mu@amsat.org)
- **Secretary:** Walt Carter  
KD8LWC 248-548-4645  
[pidge4645@aol.com](mailto:pidge4645@aol.com)
- **Treasurer:** Bob Lauer  
KD8AMP 248 652-4211  
[rlau6@aol.com](mailto:rlau6@aol.com)
- **Director:** Jerry Begel W9NPI  
[w9npi@comcast.net](mailto:w9npi@comcast.net)
- **Parliamentarian:**  
Ed Walton N8LBS  
248-649-5851 [wal-toned@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wal-toned@sbcglobal.net)

## VOLUNTEERS

- **Technical Coordinator & W8HP Trustee :**  
Murray Scott  
[KE8UM@arrl.net](mailto:KE8UM@arrl.net)
- **W8JXU Trustee:**  
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Education/VE Testing:**  
Jerry Begel W9NPI  
[w9npi@comcast.net](mailto:w9npi@comcast.net)
- **Contest Mentors:**  
Mike WD8S [wd8s@arrl.net](mailto:wd8s@arrl.net)  
Gerry K8GT [k8gt@arrl.net](mailto:k8gt@arrl.net)
- **Public Information Officer:**  
Jerry Begel W9NPI  
[w9npi@comcast.net](mailto:w9npi@comcast.net)
- **LoTW Manager:**  
Murray Scott KE8UM  
[ke8um@arrl.net](mailto:ke8um@arrl.net)
- **Newsletter:**  
Wes Plouff AC8JF  
[ac8jf@arrl.net](mailto:ac8jf@arrl.net)
- **VUCC/WAS Awards Card Checker:** Sean Fleming  
K8KHZ [k8khz@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:wkettel2@wowway.com)
- **Banquet:** Rey Bora W8REY  
[rey62@aol.com](mailto:rey62@aol.com)
- **Field Day Chair:**  
John Teagardin, AA8UU  
[aa8uu@arrl.net](mailto:aa8uu@arrl.net)
- **HPARC Official Cook:**  
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Swap:** Swap Chair  
Bernie Hildebrand W8NBC  
[bernieah@hotmail.com](mailto:bernieah@hotmail.com)
- **Holiday Party:** The Board
- **Webmaster:** Larry Koziel  
K8MU [k8mu@amsat.org](mailto: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](mailto:k8abz1@gmail.com)

## QRM, CONT'D.

*(Continued from page 1)*

all work together at the right time. And a whole lot of effort to add the links so that others could see and hear what was happening, which was far beyond what NASA required. So once again, a great big THANKS to Larry and his team.

This project is an example of the sort of things we can accomplish when we have somebody leading a project who has enthusiasm and the ability to organize the efforts, as well as knowing what to do. It would be great if our club could do more projects of this general kind, so I am looking for some leaders who have ideas. You can contact me or the board about your ideas.

FIELD DAY is coming, June 28 and 29, for those who need to put in for weekends off a month in advance. Once again, we are signed up for Camp Hazel Woods, and once again John, AA8UU is the Field Day chairman. And I understand that it will not rain at all this field day, so it will be a great time, safe and dry.

Our club seems to have become primarily a social organization, instead of following our charter, which places emphasis on education and service as well. We do fairly well on the service part, although we could do more, but Larry's project was the most educational one in a while. My intention is to try to have more educational presentations at our meetings in the future. So the meetings may be a bit different, and more interesting and educational. At least that is my plan. This need to change, and the drift from our original aims was pointed out to me by another club member, and so while I intend to make a few changes I am not going to claim to have noticed it all by myself. But the president does need to hear from club members who are paying attention. Keeping this club great, and making it greater, takes a team effort.

AND NOW, a short campaign message: Really, if I am elected again I will support those who have ideas on how to make the club more valuable, both in increasing the amount of education and by adding activities that would benefit club members. Not that I will do all of that work, but that I will support the efforts of those who want to add to the club through activities and education.

William Ketel, N8QVS

## H P A R C B A N Q U E T — G E T Y O U R T I C K E T S !

Once again we will be enjoying one of our social activities at the DeCarlo's Banquet Center. Come and join your fellow club members on Wednesday, June 11 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 without being interrupted for a business meeting or a technical presentation. 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 a number of excellent door prizes.

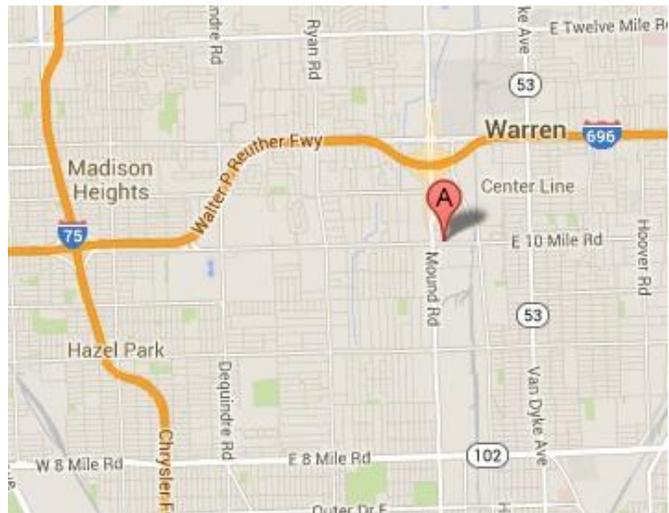
You need to get your tickets in advance, so that we can be sure to have enough food and seating for everybody. Tickets will not be sold at the door the evening of the banquet. You can also pay for them in advance and pick them up when you arrive. You can purchase the tickets from Barbra Hildebrandt, KD8SAA, at the Saturday club breakfast gatherings at Jimi's, in Royal Oak, or at the club meetings in April or May. If that does not work you may call Barb at (586) 222-6348 to arrange a time and place to pick the tickets up from her.

Another option is to contact Rey Bora, W8REY, the banquet chair. You can contact Rey by phone at (586) 909-9820 or via E-Mail at REY62@AOL.com. Be sure to put "HPARC Banquet" in the subject line so that Rey will know it isn't junk mail.

You can mail a check to Rey Bora, 27269 Jean Road, Warren, MI 48093, and the tickets will be waiting for you at the door.

Tickets are \$20 each, no increase in several years, still a good deal for an enjoyable gathering.

DeCarlo's Banquet Center is located at 6015 Ten Mile, Warren, a bit east of Mound Road. There are entrances to the parking lot both on Ten Mile and northbound Mound Road.



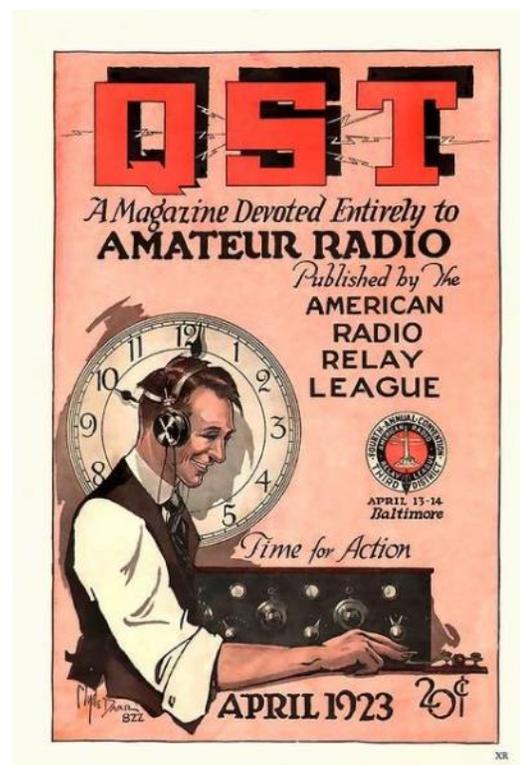
## D O N S T O C K T O N K 8 G Y R , S K

Past HPARC president Donald Jack Stockton, K8GYR, has died in Dowagiac on March 23, 2014. While holding the callsign AA8EG, Don was president of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club in 1993-94.

Don worked in television and video production, for Channel 62 in Detroit, a station in Traverse City, then for independent production houses in the Detroit area. He was active in ham radio and boating for many years.

After serving as club president, Don's work and a move to Rochester took him away from HPARC. He retired to Dowagiac.

HPARC members remember Don for his friendliness and sometimes sharp wit.



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## H P A R C N E T S

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## A R O U N D T O W N

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### 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

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

**Gordon Sparks KD8VZY**

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## W I A W P O R T A B L E S C H E D U L E

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W1AW is celebrating the ARRL Centennial year by operating portable in all 50 states and many US territories. QSL by LOTW is encouraged. Details for paper QSLs have not been announced yet. Here is the continuing schedule.

### April 2014

2-8 Pennsylvania, Oregon

9-15 Massachusetts, Virginia, Puerto Rico (KP4)

16-22 Mississippi, North Dakota

23-29 New Jersey, New Hampshire

30-6 Connecticut, Nevada

### May 2014

7-13 Utah, Nebraska

14-20 South Dakota

21-27 New York, Colorado

## DXPEDITION VS. MOTHER NATURE



By Wes Plouff AC8JF

The VK9MT Mellish Reef DXpedition might have been fairly easy to pull off. Mellish Reef is a low-lying coral reef 600 miles off Australia's northeast coast. It is the most distant of that country's Coral Sea Islands. Most of the reef is submerged, with a 14-acre island rising only ten feet above high tide at the center of a lagoon. It is also number 29 on *DX Magazine's* most wanted list.

Unfortunately, there was a catch. In March and April, near Australia, they get cyclones. The result — well, let the team's own reports tell the story.

**March:** Our plan is to operate from Mellish Reef in April 2014 for 10 days, setting up and running 6 stations 24/7 by 11 experienced DX-pedition operators, with RTTY as a priority. Active on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. We allowed 3.5 days at sea to and from the reef, one full day to unload the boat and set-up, and one full day to tear down and load boat. If we arrive at Mellish sooner [than March 28] we will operate longer.

**March 20:** The Advance Team arrived in Mackay [Australia] on March 18th - 19th. We spent the better part of two days at shops around Mackay buying items we thought too expensive to ship round trip from the US and EU. The crew has been very helpful with the loading process. Today, in between rain showers, we will test the generators, assemble [CrankIR] antennas and make final tuning adjustments to the folding hex beams.

**March 24:** The full team assembled in Mackay and has been busy making preparations for sailing. The boat will

have a crew of 5 experienced sailors and 11 passengers. After several days of continuous rain, the boat is loaded with all our radio equipment, food and other essentials.

**March 28:** After 3 miserable days of nasty seas we arrived at Mellish Reef. Equipment is being taken ashore using the Zodiac [boat]. We run out of sunlight at about 6:30PM and can not (at this early stage of the project) take people back and forth at night. The temperature is 38C [100 F] with about 65% humidity.

**March 30th:** After 2 full days of setting up equipment, 5 stations opened for business at 2:40PM local time, March 30th. The ship is at anchor 500 meters from the reef. Because of the coral heads that surround the island we can only transit to Mellish Reef during daylight hours, 5:30 AM first trip and last trip of the day at 5:30 PM. Teams will alternate operating through the night.

The temperature is in the 30s C during the day, with continuous 20 - 30 knot winds that required us to reset the tents and guys first thing this morning. There are no trees on the reef, no shade. There are many sea birds nesting on the reef, though they don't seem to be bothered by our presence. We are not bothered by any other local wildlife.

**April 1:** We are getting into what will be our routine for the remainder of the operation. The team members are in good spirits. The team is split into two shifts, to give 24 hour coverage.

The weather continues to be a challenge. Temperatures during the day are very hot and the wind never stops. We spend time every day repairing antennas and resetting guy

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## CONTESTS

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

### April 2014

5-6 15-Meter SSTV Dash Contest  
 5-6 QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party  
 5-6 Mississippi QSO Party  
 5-6 Missouri QSO Party  
 5-6 SP DX Contest  
 5-6 EA RTTY Contest  
 12-13 JIDX CW Contest  
 12-13 OK/OM DX Contest, SSB  
 12-13 New Mexico QSO Party  
 12-13 Georgia QSO Party  
 18-19 Holyland DX Contest  
[19-20 Michigan QSO Party](#)  
 19-20 Ontario QSO Party  
 19-20 TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest  
 19-20 CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest  
 19-20 YU DX Contest  
 26-27 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital  
 26-27 SP DX RTTY Contest  
 26-27 Helvetia Contest  
 26-27 QRP to the Field  
 26-27 Florida QSO Party

### May 2014

3-4 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW  
 3-4 ARI International DX Contest  
 3-4 New England, 7th Area and Indiana QSO Parties

### June 2014

[28-29 Field Day](#)

## HAMFESTS

### 4/12/2014 Milford Hamfest 8-12

Milford HS, 2830 S. Milford Rd, Highland, MI

[http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk/milford\\_hamfest.htm](http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk/milford_hamfest.htm)

Talk-In: 145.490 (PL 67)

### Upcoming

5/16-5/18 - Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH

## DXPEDITION CONT'D

*(Continued from page 5)*

stakes. The island is a big sandbar and sinking a guy anchor into a solid base isn't possible.

**April 5:** It has been a rough week for the VK9MT team. Storms have hampered our operation and we were on the verge of leaving at any time most of the week.

Due to the ever worsening weather associated with an impending tropical storm, the team decided in the interest of safety to end the operation early. The weather was extremely windy, with occasional heavy rain. The antennas were taking a severe beating. The operating tents were shaking and very noisy; the operators were having trouble hearing callsigns.

The last night on the island was extremely difficult. With continued heavy rain and wind, radio operations were nearly impossible. We have set sail for the Australian coast and seek a course to keep ahead of the storm that caused us to leave the reef.

**April 17th:** Our decision to leave the island didn't come easily. Just as the last QSO was made it became clear we could not remain on the island another day. It was 01:00 (local) when the rain began. The wind was blowing at about 35 - 40 knots; we had water infiltrating the operating tents and the antennas were taking a severe beating.

We spent the next several hours packing equipment using head and hand torches. When the Zodiac arrived for the 6AM shift change we began taking down the antennas and tents. Once the storm was officially declared Cyclone Ita there was no question we made the correct decision. Cyclone Ita required us to improvise, adapt and overcome. In 5 days we made 40,000 QSOs which put us on track for the original target.

*Several members of the VK9MT on-island team will be attending the Dayton Hamvention.*



## MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 2014

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

There were no license upgrades reported.

The club welcomed 1 visitor: Vince, No call sign yet.

Welcome to new member Gordon Sparks KD8VZY.

Introduction of all attendees were made.

Our monthly presentation was given by Jerry W9NPI.

"Military Communications... A Brief History" covered marathon runners delivering messages and progressed all the way up to modern satellite communications. As with all of Jerry's presentations, this one was well researched and excellently presented.

Larry K8MU gave an excellent report about the club sponsored HPARC and Warren Consolidated Schools radio contact with the International Space Station. The contact was flawless and there is a video available on the club Website.

A break was held.

Treasurer report with copies of the bank statement was presented by Bob KD8AMP. A motion was made by Ed N8LBS and seconded by Gerry K8GT to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

DX report detailing recent and upcoming DX events was given by Gerry K8GT.

The club installation of new officers will be held 11 June 2014 at the Annual Banquet. Get your tickets early.

Oak Apple Run will be held 31 May 2014. See or call Mike WD8S for details.

Tony N8VR reported on the latest Dart Repeater status and encouraged more people to use the repeater.

Wes AC8JF reported that siren testing season has started and the next test will be Wednesday 9 June 2014 at 1:00 PM. Please contact Marsha N8FE for siren assignments.

Larry K8MU announced that a Mr. Brockman from Arizona is trying to find information and the ham call sign for his grandfather who became SK in the late 1980s.

The radio raffle was won by John Wessels N8ZZE.

Club officers present: President Bill N8QVS, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jim K8ABZ, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Larry K8MU,

## SUNDAY NIGHT NET CHECK-INS

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

			1 checkin:	
KD8SAA	Barb	43	K8HJU	Ed
W8NBC	Bernie	43	K8KHZ	Sean
KE8UM	Murray	41	K8PEJ	Mike
N8QVS	Bill	38	KB8NJP	Lamar
KD8SPD	Dan	37	KB8UMA	Mike
KF8UU	Les	36	KB8WLU	Paul
N8LBS	Ed	35	KC8FZR	Mark
KD8AMP	Bob	34	KD4BIO	Ken
KD8NYB	Chuck	34	KD8MFR	Bruce
KE8UD	Paul	30	KD8RCU	Doug
AA8OZ	Paul	29	KD8SRQ	Tony
KD8LWC	Walt	20	KD8THQ	Josh
K8ABZ	Jim	16	KD8UMB	Ed
KD8STM	Mike	10	KD8UNJ	Robert
AB8RH	Don	7	KD8VXZ	JD
AA8UU	John	6	KD8WAP	Jeff
N8AE	Carl	5	KF8WR	Ted
N8ZU	Ray	5	KI8JL	Roy
KD8SBL	Ron	4	N8AAU	Mike
N8RLN	Brian	4	N8CPH	Josh
KB3EHW	Reuven	3	N8FE	Marsha
KD8QBA	Mike	3	N8FM	Steve
KD8UMV	Sean	3	N8ZZE	John
KD8UMZ	Tony	3	VA3TGN	Tim
K8JRE	Joe	2	W8HL	Lee
KD8COJ	Gordon	2	W8VPC	Mike
KD8ROQ	Frank	2	W9NPI	Jerry
N8ZU	Ray	2		
W1IK	Jim	2		

## MINUTES CONT'D

Treasurer Bob KD8AMP, Secretary Walt KD8LWC,  
Parliamentarian Ed N8LBS and Director Jerry W9NPI.

Respectfully submitted, Walt KD8LWC

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**2014 DATES**

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

**Field Day**

June 28-29



1 Meeting 2 Swap 3 Picnic



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



Scan this QR code to visit the HPARC web site

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