

The Zero Beat

THIS MEETING

**October 8, 2014
7:30 P.M.
Hoover Elementary School
23720 Hoover Ave.
Hazel Park, MI 48030**

CONTENTS

Around Town	4
Contests/Hamfests	6
FCC News	2
Meeting Minutes	7
Museum Ship	5
Net Checkins	6
Nets	4
New Members	3
Odds and Ends	7
Officers/Volunteers	2
QRM	1
Repeater Update	3
W1AW Portable	4

GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will be held on Wednesday, October 8, at 7:30 PM. The meeting location is Hoover Elementary School, 23720 Hoover Ave, Hazel Park. This month Mike Van Buren WD8S will tell us his secrets for getting a clean sweep in the ARRL Sweepstakes contest. Mike is a contest mentor for the club, and the guy who walks away with a coffee mug for a clean sweep year after year. The sunspots seem to be cooperating. Maybe he will tell us what offering he makes to the contest gods, too.

Come early and visit with fellow hams. Everyone is welcome to come to the meeting and bring a friend. The coffee urn will be hot, and donuts will be served at 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

Well here we are, summer is over, fall is here and some of us have antenna issues that still need to be addressed. It will be a short time until snow and ice will prevent most of the doing most of the antenna work. Remember, no matter what time of the year, safety is the most important step.

The last couple of weeks have been great for portable radio activity.

The date has been set for the 2015 swap, January 11. The school has been reserved and the paperwork is at the school getting signed. The printing for the swap has been ordered. Now is the time to figure out what shift you will want to do at which door at the swap. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting — go get your name on.

The campground has been reserved for Field Day next year.

We have been having a good turnout at our breakfasts on Saturday morning. I would like to see more people checking in to the Sunday night 2 meter net. Looking forward to seeing all at the meeting next week.

de Bernie W8NBC

OFFICERS

- **President:** Bernie Hildebrand W8NBC
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- **2nd VP:** Larry Koziel K8MU 586-770-2545
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- **Secretary:** Bill Ketel N8QVS 248-544-2452
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- **Director:** Barbra Hildebrand KD8SAA
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VOLUNTEERS

- **Technical Coordinator & W8HP Trustee :** Tony Gallucci N8VR 248-417-9740
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- **W8JXU Trustee:** Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Education/VE Testing:** Jerry Begel W9NPI
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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

FCC NEWS

In April, the FCC cited Thomas Rogers of Woodinville, WA, for operating equipment that produced RF noise in the 40 meter band. This is a problem with some brands of high-intensity discharge (HID) grow lamps like Rogers'.

In June, the Commission was quite busy. They ended a 2006 proceeding that would have encouraged location services in the 902-928 MHz band. Amateur radio has secondary use of this band. The Progeny M-LMS system, operating in the upper half of the band, is not affected. However, the rules don't give it priority on the band.

Amateurs with expired licenses will now be able to get new licenses with the same privileges by passing just the Technician exam. This is a big change from the old 2 year grace period. However, the FCC decided not to extend the lifetime of expired exam certificates (CSCE). Rules requiring a two-year wait for expired callsigns to become available for vanity licenses were not changed.

The Commission is allowing remote administration of amateur license exams, solving a problem for remote areas of Alaska. However, the FCC deliberately avoided writing detailed rules for the mechanics of remote exams. Also, a petition to reduce the number of VEs needed at an exam from 3 to 2 was denied.

The FCC explicitly allowed TDMA digital modes, bringing the rules in line with existing UHF repeater operations.

In September, the FCC Enforcement Bureau fined Brian Crow K3VR, of Pennsylvania \$11,500, and Michael Guernsey KZ80, of Parchment, MI (near Kalamazoo) \$22,000, for interference on 14.313 MHz. The September action takes a good step toward ending the chaos on 14.313. In a separate action, W1IT and KB3MZQ were warned for failure to identify their stations on 7.185 MHz.

In September, the FCC denied a petition by K9STH to establish a 4 meter amateur band at 70 MHz, corresponding to the European 4 meter band. The FCC pointed out that a few stations and 110 TV repeater sites were still using TV channels 4 and 5, and that future "repacking" of TV stations into less spectrum might make these channels even busier.

As yet, there is no news on the ARRL "symbol rate" petition, RM-11708, which would allow any digital mode meeting bandwidth requirements to be used. This petition drew 1,558 comment filings, with strong opposition from some RTTY operators.

REPEATER UPDATE-IRLP

By Tony Gallucci N8VR

Whew — it's finally working!

Echolink and IRLP for the DART VHF are both online. It's been in the works since late last year, but it's actually working now!

Thanks to John AA8UU and Murray KE8UM for putting the time in to get this thing operational. It's really been a labor of love for John, as he was the one who got the Raspberry Pi board set up, cabled, and tested.

If you haven't used IRLP (Internet Relay Linking Project), here are some basic info and guidelines:

<http://www.irlp.net/guidelines.html>

Here is a shortened form to get you started operating:

1. Key up and ID by saying "This is [callsign]"
2. When frequency is clear, ID and announce accessing link "This is [callsign] accessing the [link name]"
3. While keying, punch in the 4 digit repeater code — these can be found online at this link:
<http://www.irlp.net/> under "List of nodes and Frequencies"
4. Allow time for link to connect, then listen for a conversation already in progress.
5. If clear, announce your call and location — "This is [callsign] calling from [city], [state]"

When finished, ID then clear link by keying "73#" — "This is [callsign] clearing the link (press 7 3 #)"

When the connection is broken, a computer-generated voice will notify you of the node number with which you have disconnected.

IRLP Guidelines:

Nodes vs. Reflectors

Nodes are individual repeaters like ours; reflectors allow multiple repeaters to connect simultaneously. You can connect to a node or reflector and not find anyone. Do not connect to a reflector and then have a local QSO! The point of connecting to remote repeaters is to speak with others who are not local.

Always pause 1 or 2 seconds after keying before speaking, and between transmissions. There is a slight delay in digitizing and transmitting the repeater audio to the internet.

Be courteous and polite. Allow a large gap when return-

ing, especially on reflectors, as others maybe trying to get in, or check out. Be aware of whom you are talking to and what is appropriate discussion, especially with hams in other countries. Ask questions of the other operator and learn about them.

Try the following reflectors: 9250/Las Vegas, 9070/Alaska, 9450/Dallas; or the following nodes: nodes 3592/Nome, 5600/London, 8200/Tokyo, 1000/Vancouver.

For a complete list of IRLP repeater nodes, go to <http://www.irlp.net/>

IRLP Information for W8HP Repeaters

IRLP Node number 4520 (VHF)

IRLP Node number 4502 (UHF)

Echolink node number (VHF) 980938

Here is a link that gives you plenty of info about Echolink: <http://www.echolink.org/faq.htm>

It's easy to use, and I'm sure you've heard Don Craft HSOZBG/AB8RH calling from Thailand on the repeater. Don has been a missionary in Thailand for 26 years and is serving with a Independent Baptist Organization, ABWE.

The UHF site currently isn't Echolink enabled, but based on the interest shown in the VHF side, we may add it there as well. Are you ready, John?!

Have fun on the DART!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

David Meyers AC8RU

Robin Laird KB500

Victor Kruszewski

Winifred Taliaferro KD8PGD

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 the 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.arpac.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.

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

Pre-net on the DART Repeater, 146.640, around 12:30 PM. Contact Marsha N8FE for assignments.

Macomb Community College Electronic Lab

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

W1AW PORTABLE SCHEDULE

W1AW is celebrating the ARRL Centennial year by operating portable in all 50 states and many US territories. QSOs count 5 points toward Centennial QSO Party scores.

QSL by LOTW is encouraged. Paper QSLs are available two different ways. Members can opt to have cards sent to them via the QSL Bureau. Or, ARRL headquarters will reply to your QSL send along with an SASE. See:

<http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#QSLs>

Don't forget to work W1AW in Michigan this month!

October 2014

1-7 California, Alaska (/KL7), District of Columbia (/3)
8-14 Missouri, Virginia, Mariana Is (/KH0, 2 weeks)
15-21 **Michigan**, Alabama, Mariana Is (/KH0)
22-28 Nevada, West Virginia
29-4 Massachusetts, Wyoming, US Virgin Is (/KP2)

November

5-11 Kansas, Washington, American Samoa (/KH8, 2 wks)
12-18 Mississippi, Rhode Island, American Samoa (/KH8)

HAMS ON BOARD AT THE SOO

By Wes Plouff AC8JF

Every year at the beginning of June, hams get on the air for Museum Ships Weekend. Stations operate from museum ships and ship museums. The former are decommissioned ships, from battleships all the way down to submarines and lightships.

Ted K8AQM has organized special event stations for several years and several years, with a crew primarily from Adrian. This year he invited me along to operate K8V from the S.S. Valley Camp at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

The vessel Louis W. Hill carried iron ore and coal from 1917 on. In 1955 she was sold and renamed Valley Camp. The Valley Camp continued to sail until 1957, when her coal-fired engines became too expensive to operate compared to diesel-powered ships. Shortly after she was towed to the Soo and converted to a museum. Now most of the hold is stuffed with Great Lakes freighter artifacts.

I traveled up with Pete K8PGJ in a station wagon stuffed with his gear, plus my overnight bag and one tub holding my TS-570 rig. After some miscues on Friday morning, the museum welcomed us and we put up our antennas. Norm W8TTH repurposed the mast from a TV broadcast truck onto the trailer in one of the photos, making a no-fuss mobile tower. Pete brought along 15- and 17-meter yagis, which were assembled onto aluminum poles, complete with Armstrong rotators. A 40-meter wire ZL special, hung from the ship's rear mast, completed the antenna farm.

The officers' mess served as the shack. The big table in the interior photos was where they ate, and gave us plenty of space for four rigs.

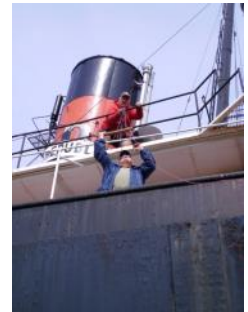
The Valley Camp site is half a mile downstream from the Soo Locks, so about every hour a lake freighter would come up the river, slow to walking speed, and ease into one of the locks. At 550 feet in length, the Valley Camp is a large ship, but we saw huge modern freighters over 1,000 feet long passing by only a few hundred feet away.

Running station K8V at 500 watts or so on 15, 17, 20 and 40 meters, we made 2026 contacts in two days, including 85 DX countries. Not bad for an informal weekend!

More information at: <http://www.nj2bb.org/museum/>



K8V operators (standing) Lee N8LJ, Stan AC8W, Norm W8TTH, Ted K8AQM, Brian KG8CO, Pete K8PGJ, (sitting) Don N8AMM, Dave KB8ECG, Wes AC8JF. Photo courtesy Pete Gladysz K8PGJ.



Photos by Wes Plouff AC8JF

CONTESTS

October 2014

3-5 YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest
 4 TARA PSK Rumble Contest
 4-5 15-Meter SSTV Dash Contest
 4-5 Oceania DX Contest, Phone
 4-5 WAB HF Phone
 4-5 TRC DX Contest
 4-5 GTC CW Cup
 4-5 Russian WW Digital Contest
 4-5 New Jersey QSO Party
 4-5 California QSO Party
 10 10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint
 11-12 ARRL EME Contest
 11-12 Oceania DX Contest, CW
 11-12 Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB
 11-12 QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party
 11-12 Pennsylvania QSO Party
 11-12 Arizona QSO Party
 11-12 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW
 18-19 New York QSO Party
 18-19 Worked All Germany Contest
 18-19 Stew Perry Topband Challenge
 18-19 South Dakota QSO Party
 19-20 Illinois QSO Party
[20-24 ARRL School Club Roundup](#)
[25-26 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB](#)

November 2014

1-2 Ukrainian DX Contest
[1-3 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW](#)



HAMFESTS

10/18/2014 Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest 8-12

Fellowship Reformed Church, 4800 Apple Ave, Muskegon
<http://mcecs.net/Hamfest.htm>
 Talk-in: 146.82 (PL 94.8)

10/19/2014 Kalamazoo Hamfest 8-12

Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake Street,
 Kalamazoo <http://kalamazoohamfest.com/>
 Talk-in: 147.04 (PL 94.8)

10/26/2014 USECA Hamfest 8-2

UFCW Local 876 Hall, 876 Horace Brown Dr, Madison Hts
<http://usecaarc.com/events/>
 Talk-in: 147.18 (PL 100)

Upcoming

12/07 L'anse Creuse Hamfest
 01/11/2015 Hazel Park ARC Swap

SUNDAY NIGHT NET CHECK-INS

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

KD8SAA	Barb	15	1 checkin:
W8NBC	Bernie	15	K8POS Bob
KB3EHW	Reuven	14	KC8YRO Joe
KE8UM	Murray	14	KD8HTT Dan
KF8UU	Les	14	KD8NXH Augustine
N8QVS	Bill	14	KD8SPD Dan
KE8UD	Paul	10	KD8VGT Harold
N8LBS	Ed	10	KD8ZAZ Dan
AA8OZ	Paul	9	N8AYE Phil
N8REL	Bob	9	N8FE Marsha
K8ABZ	Jim	8	N8FM Steve
AA8UU	John	7	N8VR Tony
W8BHF	Bob	7	W8AE Don
AB8HI	Jerry	3	W8PDI Don
KD8TBC	Lee	3	WD8YTS John
HS0ZBG	Don	2	
KB500	Rick	2	
KD8UNJ	Robert	2	
KD8YTS	John	2	

MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2014

Called to order at 7:30PM by president Bernie, W8NBC.
All officers were present.

Introductions: we had 3 visitors, AA8DD Robert, KD8ZAZ Dan, and Arkeisha, who has been trying to get to one of our meetings for quite some time.

We also have four new club members:

David Meyers, AC8RU

Robin Laird, KB500

Victor Kruszewski, no call sign

Winifred Taliaferro, KD8PGD

We all need to remember that we strive to be “the friendliest club around”, in addition to having the friendliest repeater around. Friendship is important.

The Program: Gerry, K8GT provided a technical presentation about audio, including signal levels and impedances. The coverage was very thorough and complete. AND now we know where the term “DX” comes from. Thanks, Gerry.

The break: Fresh donuts and good coffee, but we ran out of coffee a bit before we ran out of break.

Minutes Approval: The minutes of the previous meeting, May 2014, were approved as published in the Zero Beat.

Treasurer's report: We did run a deficit budget last fiscal year but in spite of that we are not broke. And we plan to spend more money on the repeater this year. Bob's reports are interesting, quite an achievement indeed.

The very good news is that our application for non-profit, 503c3, status is approved, meaning we are a tax-deductible non-profit organization, with all of the associated benefits. Thanks for the hard work Bob!

New Business, (no old business): Bernie asked for suggestions on how to increase the club membership. He requested that folks email the suggestions to him. At that point there was quite a bit of discussion, but no motions or resolutions.

Report on the DART repeater status: John AA8UU explained that we now have a two-meter system Echolink connection functioning. But more work remains.

Larry K. K8MU announced that the two teachers who had invited us to do the ARISS contact project have obtained their amateur licenses, He also described a lot of other things. Folks were quite interested.

We may sponsor a station somehow.

KD8SAA, Barb, described her amazing DX contact all the way to Columbia. Then Bernie talked about the joys of QRP operation.

Gerry, K8GT offered invitations to join the upgrade class.

N8LBS moved to adjourn, Wes, AC8JF, seconded, so we did. But conversations continued for another half hour amongst some of the members.

William Ketel N8QVS

ODDS AND ENDS

News collected from here and there...

Life imitates art. The TV show Last Man Standing is well known for having many hams on its production staff. Now star Tim Allen, who plays “Mike Baxter KAOXTT” on the show, is KK60TD in real life.

Navassa in 2015? Many remote islands around the world have become wildlife refuges, and are thus off-limits to most human activity, including DXpeditions. Navassa Island (KP1 prefix), between Jamaica and Haiti, is one of them. It hasn't been activated since 1993. But good news, bad news, the US Fish and Wildlife Service will allow a Navassa DXpedition in 2015 or early 2016, then close the island to amateur radio for 10 years. So stay tuned — KP1 is an easy contact from Hazel Park.

Kenwood will replace its popular TS-590S transceiver with the TS-590SG. Already known for its good receiver, the 590 will get technology from the TS-990, giving better selectivity, and software upgrades including a Morse decoder, nicer split frequency functions and better AGC. Current TS-590 owners will be able to get some of the new software features as a free update.

The popular N1MM contest logger software has been replaced by N1MM+ as of September 22. Like the name change, the software changes are subtle and mostly under the hood. “Classic” N1MM will be frozen at version 14.09 unless major bugs are found. The new version might require better hardware, but runs fine on Windows XP and later. It's still Windows-only.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2014 MEETINGS

- October 8
- November 12
- December 10

2015 MEETINGS

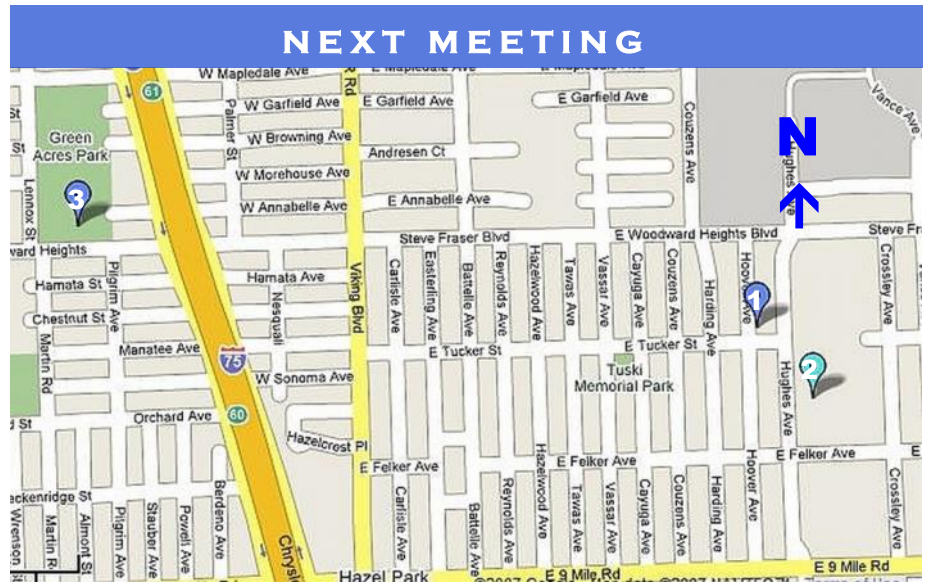
- January 14
- February 11

TIME

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

PLACE

Hoover Elementary School
 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



Scan this QR code to visit the
 HPARC web site

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