



The Zero Beat

THIS MEETING

January 11, 2017
 7:30 P.M.
 UFCW Hall
 876 Horace Brown Dr.
 Madison Heights, MI

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GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will be held Wednesday, January 11, at 7:30 PM. Socializing starts around 7:00 PM. The meeting location is UFCW Hall, 876 Horace Brown Dr, Madison Heights. The location is south of 13 Mile Rd, between John R and the I-75 freeway. Turn south at the stoplight at Barrington St, then just before the dead end sign, turn right onto Horace Brown Dr. Enter the building on the east side.

John Teagardin AA8UU will talk about solar weather and propagation. Web sites like Spaceweather.com show sometimes mysterious numbers about the Sun and the ionosphere, such as A and K numbers, sunspot number and solar flux. John will discuss what these numbers tell you about the ionosphere, and how they affect HF propagation.

Come early and visit with fellow hams. Everyone is welcome to come to the meeting and bring a friend along. The coffee will be hot when you arrive. Donuts will be provided during the break.

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

PRESIDENT'S QRM

I'm so bad at New Year's Resolutions I don't even like talking about them. It seems like every time I resolve to do something I am setting myself up for disappointment. I mean, how many times have you thought I'm definitely going to do XYZ this year, and then actually did it?

That said, looking backwards, I'm rarely disappointed. 2016 was an amazing year personally and good for the club. So why is it that I fall short of my plans yet exceed my

expectations? Why is there a gap?

I believe that goals and ideals are excellent targets but terrible measuring sticks. It's our ideals that keep us reaching further, doing more. Then, after we did it, we look backwards and see progress.

And therein lies the all-important difference: If we measure ourselves by our ideals, we'll always come up short because good ideals are by nature lofty and hard to

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Hazel Park Swap Volunteers Still Needed!

Thanks to all who have volunteered to help at the swap! More volunteers are need for vendor setup on Saturday, Jan. 28, and the swap on Sunday, Jan. 29. Please see Hugh Boyle KE8BED at the club meeting to sign up.

OFFICERS

- **President:** Jonathan
"JD" Devine KD8VXZ
248-821-3045
therealjd@live.com
- **1st VP:** Marsha Fleming
N8FE n8fe@arrl.net
- **2nd VP:** John Teagardin
AA8UU aa8uu@arrl.net
- **Secretary:** Reuven
Gevaryahu KB3EHW
kb3ehw@arrl.net
- **Treasurer:** Robert Lauer
N8REL rlau6aol.com
- **Director:** Bill Ketel N8QVS
n8qvs@arrl.net
- **Parliamentarian:**
Hugh Boyle KE8BED
photoink7@hotmail.com

VOLUNTEERS

- **Technical Coordinator & W8HP Trustee :**
Tony Gallucci N8VR
248-417-9740
n8vr@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:**
Wes Plouff AC8JF
ac8jf@arrl.net
- **Webmaster:** Larry Koziel
K8MU k8mu@amsat.org
- **Siren Tests:**
Marsha Fleming N8FE
248-542-9573
n8fe@arrl.net
- **Meeting Coffee & Donuts:**
Brenda White KD8SGB
- **Sunday Net:** Bob N8REL
Lee KD8TBC
Bill N8QVS
- **VUCC/WAS Awards Card Checker:** Sean Fleming
K8KHZ k8khz@arrl.net
- **Banquet:** (Open)
- **Field Day Chair:**
John Teagardin, AA8UU
aa8uu@arrl.net
- **HPARC Official Cook:**
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Hamfest Chair:** Hugh Boyle
KE8BED (248) 755-6094
HazelParkSwap@gmail.com
- **Holiday Party:** The Board
- **Oak Apple Run Royal Oak:**
Mike Van Buren WD8S
wd8s@arrl.net

QRM, CONT'D

(Continued from page 1)

reach. But if we measure ourselves by our progress, fueled by ideals, we see something real and worth being proud of.

As we go into 2017 as a radio club, I want to challenge us to reach for lofty goals, while at the same time appreciating actual progress as we make it. Have a wonderful New Year and we'll see you in January!

73,

Jonathan Devine (JD) KD8VXZ, President
Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

JANUARY IS CW MONTH

From time to time, various club members have talked about getting on the air using CW. What's holding them back is either not knowing Morse code very well, or concern that everyone on the air is too fast and won't slow down enough. Well, January is the time to work on both of those.

For those who would like to put a little fun into learning code, Marsha N8FE recommends a new game app, Morse Toad, available for smartphones. See <http://www.hamradioqrp.com/2016/12/gamify-morse-code.html>

Serious learners might want to look at Koch Method courses. Letters are sent at full speed, but spaced so that the overall speed is fairly slow. <http://lcwo.net/> has a nice online version. The FISTS CW Club offers the K7QO Code Course as MP3 files on CD for essentially the cost of shipping. These CDs are great for listening while you drive. See <http://fistsna.org/store.html>.

On the air, there are plenty of opportunities for running CW, starting with ARRL Straight Key night on January 1 (GMT). During January, SKCC members operate K3Y/portable from all 50 states and some DX locations, and they DO slow down for QRS operators. Full details can be found at

<http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y.php>.

H A M R A D I O N E W S

Parity Act Dead for 2016. The Amateur Radio Parity Act, HR 1301, died in the U.S. Senate when Sen. Ben Nelson of Florida refused to support it. The bill was not scheduled for debate in the full Senate, and would not have been passed by unanimous consent. A different bill with similar provisions did not advance. The ARRL has vowed to push for a bill with the same provisions when the new Congress convenes this month.

QSL Bureau Fees are up, up, up. In September, the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau hiked fees to \$1.15 per ounce plus a \$7.00 service fee. Gone are the days of sending 10 cards for two bucks. This may be a good time for the club to bundle together member QSLs in order to cut costs.

FCC Linear Amplifier Rule. The FCC is considering abolishing a rule for amateur radio linear amps dating back to the

days of the CB craze. Currently, linears are limited to 15 dB maximum gain. A proposed rule would lift the limit, something in keeping with advances in technology.

New Michigan Hamfest. A big new hamfest is coming to this area. The Great Lakes HamCon will be held October 7 and 8 at the Michigan International Speedway, an hour and a half southwest of Hazel Park. Few details are available, and it is not known how this event will affect hamfests like Findlay and USECA.

One Day Tech Class. Dan Romanchik KB6NU will be offering his non-traditional "Tech in a day" class on January 21 in Ann Arbor. Students learn about ham radio and get a Technician Class license in the same day. The class is free but registration is necessary. For details, see <http://www.kb6nu.com/next-one-day-tech-class/>

S T A T E Q S O P A R T Y C A L E N D A R

State QSO Parties are relaxed contests where the goal is to contact as many stations as possible in a state or region. They are held for 49 states — Alaska is the exception — and two Canadian provinces. Rules vary by contest, but generally the other station will report his county, and you will report your QTH as Michigan. QSO parties run anywhere from 12 to 48 hours, with convenient start and end times. Below is the calendar for the first half of 2017.

January

28 Montana

February

4 Minnesota

4-5 Vermont, British Columbia

25-26 South Carolina

26-27 North Carolina

March

11-12 Idaho, Oklahoma

12-13 Wisconsin

18-19 Louisiana*, Virginia

April

1-2 Mississippi, Missouri

8-9 Georgia, New Mexico

15-16 **Michigan**, North Dakota*, Ontario

22-23 Nebraska

29-30 Florida

May

6-7 Delaware, Indiana

6-7 New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)

6-7 7th Call Area (AZ, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY)

13-14 Arkansas

June

3-4 Alabama

17-18 West Virginia

* = *estimated date*

The Michigan QSO Party, on April 15, is fun because Michigan stations are in the spotlight.

For more information, see <http://qsoparty.eqth.net/> or <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/stateparties.html>

BUNCH OF QRP

Another year, wow. Things have changed for many of us; for some good and for others perhaps not. What will 2017 bring? I am no prophet, so I don't know and besides, it is still 2016 as I write this. I have some things I'd like to see, though.

Watch and look around you; in other words, be alert, especially this time of year. I look around and see all the people walking blindly down the street staring at their little screens. I joked to my wife about one kid we saw, standing in the middle of an intersection quite late. It was well past sunset - what was he doing? Can you believe it? Texting! Think of the bad things that could happen before the kid even realized what was going on around him.

In this hobby, we have our own distractions, especially when operating while driving. As for new hams, we understand the dangers. But for old timers - we can simply be complacent, which is just as dangerous. Drive safely this winter as well as remember to use your radio safely. If you are a new ham - the road is Priority Number One. The guy on the other end of your QSO can wait if necessary. Remember that the other people out there may not be driving so safely or with you in mind, so you must drive defensively for your sake and for theirs.

Please, I beg you - use the repeater when you are out mobile. That is what it is there for! Poor John calls for someone to talk to and occasionally I can answer but there must be others listening! If not - start! And try to win other new people into the hobby and get them to listen. How? Start using it yourself, have lots of fun, and let them hear you!

Digital is cool (If we can decide which standard to agree on), but remember there is still a place for analog repeaters. Use both then - we DO have Echolink and IRLP working on the repeater. Echolink and IRLP are still standbys for me. APRS is cool too but only as a novelty until more people get on board. Many of you have APRS-capable radios but have not set them up - do it! But more about that later.

I have no idea if this winter will be a flurry of QSOs or just flurries, but I am going to try QRP HF again. You will find out if I have success or failure.

The other big rock on my desk is exercise! Body and spir-

it: if you do not work them out - they get stagnant. It is hard to climb a tower or just up on your roof if your heart rate ends in Kill-ocycles!

What to do? Prepare for activity. For those too far from a gym (physically or emotionally), try exercise at home. Exercise bands are a simple way to work out anywhere, no fancy equipment needed. Try this:

<http://exercise.about.com/cs/exerciseworkouts/a/resistance.htm>

Field Day starts now! And perhaps we can add some fox hunting. But that takes preparations now. And Preparedness comes in many forms. Keep a spare blanket and batteries in your vehicle.

Last month (as I write this) it was Thanksgiving and this month it will be more of the same for some, lots of eating and sitting around. Don't get carried away - literally!

72/73

Phillip

N8AYE

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

December was our Holiday Party. So much time was spent eating good food and chatting among club members that the business meeting lasted only a minute at the end of the evening. No business was transacted, so there are no minutes.

Don't forget! HPARC will hold a raffle drawing for a dual-band VHF mobile transceiver at the end of the January meeting. Raffle tickets will still be available for \$5 each at the meeting.

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.

Thursday Night Youth Net, 8 PM EST on the DART repeater, via Echolink *759629 (W5DDL-R).

Yacht Net, Saturday night, 8 PM EST. A youth net on the DART repeater, via Echolink *481872 (W8PIF-R).

Homepage: <http://yachthams.webstarts.com>

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.

A R O U N D T O W N

HPARC Buddy Breakfast every Saturday @ 9:00 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

March through November except in April, when it is held the second Wednesday at 1 PM. Contact **Marsha N8FE** at n8fe@arr.net to be assigned a siren to test.

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 7:00 PM. Contact Jerry W9NPI at w9npi@arrl.net

J A N U A R Y C O N T E S T S

- 1 ARRL Straight Key Night, CW
- 7 ARRL Kids Day Contest
- 7-8 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 14-15 North American QSO Party, CW
- 21-22 North American QSO Party, SSB
- 21-23 ARRL January VHF Contest
- 28 Montana QSO Party
- 28-29 Winter Field Day Contest

For details and many more contests, visit:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

H A M F E S T S

1/29/2017 Hazel Park Swap, Madison Heights

UFCW Hall, 876 Horace Brown Dr, Madison Heights

www.hparc.org

Talk-in: 146.64 (PL 100)

Upcoming

2/19 Livonia Swap & Shop

HAZEL PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 51st ANNUAL SWAP & SHOP

****NEW LOCATION****

****UFCW Local 876 - 876 Horace Brown Dr. Madison Heights, MI 48071****

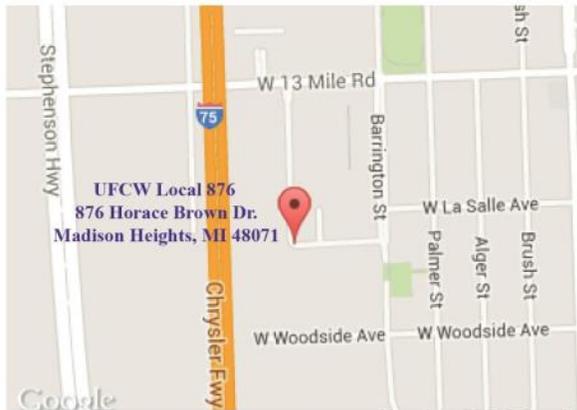
January 29, 2017 - 8:00 a.m. til 12:00 noon

W8HP - Talk-in 146.640 (100hz.PL) D.A.R.T. Repeater
Tables \$15.00 Tickets \$5.00 Ample Free Parking

NEW for VENDORS!

Vendor setup times with paid admission

Jan. 28th 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm. and Jan. 29th 7:30 a.m.



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

E-mail Address: HazelParkSwap@gmail.com Phone: Hugh Boyle (248) 755-6094
Web Site: WWW.HPARC.ORG Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hpargroup/>

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2017 Meetings

- January 11
- February 8
- March 8
- April 12
- May 10

TIME

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

PLACE

UFCW Hall
876 Horace Brown Dr.
Madison Heights 48071



Meeting and Swap location



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?