

# The Zero Beat

## THIS MEETING

April 12, 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, April 12, 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.

During the business meeting, nominations for 2017-18 officers will be taken. Voting will be held next month.

Joe Miller KJ80 will present "Exploring the world of radio memorabilia and collectibles." Joe started out as shortwave listener in 1967 before getting his amateur radio license three decades later. He was an avid broadcast DX listener before becoming an avid con-tester and ragchewer. This presentation focuses primarily on commercial AM and FM radio stations as well as the International short wave broadcasters.

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](http://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

### Why I Volunteer

There are a number of volunteer opportunities the club needs to fill. Rather than guilt you, a tactic I reserve for future use, I would like to take the opportunity to relate in a positive sense about why I personally volunteer.

Much is made of the concept of "giving back." I dislike this concept, because it implies you take something. It implies you owe something, like you have an unsettled account with the community. I believe all members contribute in one way or another. It's mainly a question of how much.

I believe it's not about giving back: it's about giving more.

I volunteer for me. Not for the praise and gratitude of others (there is very little). Not for the prestige of the title (again, very little and overrated). I volunteer because I love amateur radio and it makes me a better person. Working with the club, facing challenges, getting things done, makes my life more than it was before I was involved.

Life is full of challenges: household projects, health issues, work issues, church

*(Continued on page 2)*

## OFFICERS

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

## VOLUNTEERS

- **Technical Coordinator & W8HP Trustee :**  
Tony Gallucci N8VR  
248-417-9740  
[n8vr@arrl.net](mailto:n8vr@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)
- **Webmaster:** Larry Koziel K8MU [k8mu@amsat.org](mailto:k8mu@amsat.org)
- **Siren Tests:**  
Marsha Fleming N8FE  
248-320-9962  
[n8fe@arrl.net](mailto: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](mailto:k8khz@arrl.net)
- **Banquet:** (Open)
- **Field Day Chair:**  
John Teagardin, AA8UU  
[aa8uu@arrl.net](mailto:aa8uu@arrl.net)
- **HPARC Official Cook:**  
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Hamfest Chair:** Hugh Boyle KE8BED (248) 755-6094  
[HazelParkSwap@gmail.com](mailto:HazelParkSwap@gmail.com)
- **Holiday Party:** The Board
- **Oak Apple Run Royal Oak:**  
Mike Van Buren WD8S  
[wd8s@arrl.net](mailto:wd8s@arrl.net)

## QRM, CONT'D

*(Continued from page 1)*

stuff, family drama and all the rest. It's nice to have a little time to set all that aside and focus on the club. We get things done in HPARC. When someone has a good idea, we do it. Against the backdrop of life, this is like a breath of fresh air.

Of course we have our own drama, our own politics. But at the end of the day we keep moving forward. I find that personally very satisfying.

It's a cliché to say that "we're only as good as our people", but it's true. HPARC is an all-volunteer organization. No one is paid. We utterly depend on the personal commitment of each individual who volunteers.

As for me. I'm all-in. How about you?

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

## WANTED: EDITOR

In June 2012, I started editing the Zero Beat. For most of the last five years, I've tried to put out a newsletter that serves the interests of Hazel Park club members. Now it's time for someone else's voice to be heard. I plan to step down after the June issue.

So, this "help wanted" ad is a call for a new newsletter editor. The qualifications are simple: you must be able to put out nine newsletters a year. You should be able to write clearly, get articles from other club members, format issues of the Zero Beat, and get them out to the membership on time. Preferably, you should own Microsoft Publisher. Each issue takes six to ten hours of work.

Beyond these requirements, the Zero Beat will be what you make of it. If you're interested, please contact me, and we can talk over what's involved.

Wes Plouff AC8JF  
Editor

## BRUCE ZICK KB8RBZ, SK

By Bill Ketel, N8QVS

*Robert B. Zick, KB8RBZ, became a Silent Key on January 11, 2017. His funeral was held on March 24.*

Bruce was a radio club friend of mine. He had been in the club prior to my joining, although I don't know how long. Bruce was always interesting to talk to because he was always doing different projects that were interesting, and he could describe them in terms that I understood.

He was not a serious contest operator nor a serious DX chaser, although he was certainly willing to talk about the contacts that he made. He also talked about another one of his hobbies, which was his shotguns and the reloading system for the shells. He was happy of the money he saved by reloading, and I did learn about the need for consistency in order to be accurate. I found that interesting.

Bruce did not talk about his job, which was creating software and making it work correctly. My guess is that it was proprietary and not to be discussed with anybody.

About a year ago I stopped seeing Bruce at the meetings, and when I checked I found that his health had deteriorated quite a bit. He had cancer and a number of complications. The last time we talked he told me that he wanted to donate some equipment to the club, but not while he was still going to be using it. Bruce was both generous and wise like that all the time that I knew him. His wish was granted and he did donate his equipment to the club. I thank both Bruce and his daughter Suzette for the generous donation.

His funeral and interment were on March 24, at Christ Church Cranbrook. The whole club was invited, I was the only one who came.

## KEN SPAHR W8YO, SK

*As WB8JYO, Ken was President of HPARC in 1975-76.*

Kenneth Merril Spahr II passed away at St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw on Monday, Feb. 27 2017 at the age of 75.

Kenneth was born in North Apollo, Penn. in 1941. He earned his Eagle Scout badge from Boy Scouts of America in 1957. He graduated from Berkley High School, Berkley, in 1959. He earned his Associates of Science in mechanical engineering and a Bachelors of Business Administration from Lawrence Tech. He worked as head of communications at Ford Motor Company.

Kenneth belonged to Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie 2588, Tawas City, serving 10 years as secretary, Loyal Order of Moose, Lodge 3000, Illinois, Fraternal Order of Elks, Lodge 2525, Tawas.

Kenneth enjoyed hunting and reloading, reading, Ham Radio (W8YO), collecting coins and stamps, anything involving history, and spending time with his family.

(Courtesy Iosco County News-Herald)

## PUBLIC SERVICE

**Siren Test** — In recognition of Severe Weather Awareness Week, the monthly Oakland County siren test will be held on Wednesday, April 19, at 1:00 PM. The Southeast Oakland Siren Net will operate on this day, same procedures as during normal Saturday siren tests. If you are available on April 19, please volunteer to check a siren. For assignments, contact Marsha Fleming N8FE at n8fe@arrl.net, or 248-320-9962.

**Oak Apple Run** — The Oak Apple Run is coming up on June 3 in Royal Oak. HPARC provides communication along the race course, and many volunteers are needed. Mike Van Buren WD8S will be sending out e-mails to club members shortly.

**MS Walk: Detroit** — Club member Mike White N8BBC is running communications for this event in Detroit on Sunday, May 7. Contact him at 586-738-2881 to volunteer, and also sign up on "Team N8DXC" at [main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=28517](http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?fr_id=28517).

## BUNCH OF QRP

Cheap APRS that works? With a Chinese radio? Ok y'all, as you know – I like APRS. How many of you have a Kenwood D72 or D710? How many have a Yaesu 350 or 400? How many are actually using the APRS function on them? Q equals almost Zero here, for shame. You want new hams to get involved in Ham Radio then give them new uses for classic modes. Makers send APRS equipped balloons around the world seems to be the current rage.

Too often the problem is that equipment is simply too expensive, especially for new hams or people who wish to try something out without a full investment! THAT is why these new Chinese radios have become such a hit. Just like the Raspberry Pi – A paperboy can now set up his own “Whatever!”

So far, in the crowd I work with – the Baofeng UV-5R has been the most stable and reliable radio for spare usages, hacking, or for loaning out to new projects. IT is easily and reliably programmed with Chirp in Linux, Windows, and Mac. So that it is a very universal RaspberryPi of Radios.

I was very happy then, to hear that Baofeng was finally going to produce a cable for connecting my 5R's to an Android phone and run APRSDroid. In fact, it allows the 5R to work with almost ANY Android audio-based Ham Radio software.

It was simply enough to connect this cable to my 5R and Android phone, setup APRSDroid and run APRSDroid using the Audio-Modem-mode. But then I decided to use a Speak-Mic-Splitter and plug this cable into my laptop. I was then able to use APRS-IS and APRSPoint to get on the APRS network while mobile with my laptop. You will need to use programs which incorporate an Audio Modem or run a program which creates one.

So, if you wanted to try a solution such as this – Get the cable and see what you can do for your own projects.

BTECH APRS-K2 TRRS / APRS Cable - Sold by BaoFeng Tech

<https://www.amazon.com/APRS-K2-Connector-BaoFeng-APRSDroid-Compatible/dp/B01LMIBAZW>

72/73,  
Phillip N8AYE

## GREAT LAKES HAMCON

By Wes Plouff AC8JF

On the Monday following the canceled HPARC meeting, Larry Camp WB8R, ARRL Michigan Section Manager, gave a presentation on Great Lakes HamCon at the USECA meeting instead. Larry gave the audience a lot of information. Here are some highlights.

GLHC will take place October 7 and 8 at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, near Jackson and about 2 hours from Hazel Park. Tickets will be \$17 in advance, \$20 at the gate, available online starting in April. Flea market spaces will run \$40. There will be plenty of paved parking. Camping/RV spaces will be available on the MIS property.

The event will be located on the infield of the MIS 2-mile oval track. No, we won't be able to get out onto the race-track itself. Attendees will walk on pavement the whole time. There are three large buildings for indoor exhibitors, and several buildings along the pit road for forums and gatherings. The 1,650 foot long pit road will be used for the flea market, with capacity for at least 300 spaces. MIS will provide parking, food service and security.

GLHC will also be the 2017 ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention.

The idea for GLHC started last July when MIS approached Larry Camp about holding a ham radio convention at the speedway. Larry and a few others put together the Great Lakes Amateur Radio Association as the ham sponsor of the event. GLARA is a nonprofit "council of clubs," with 14 members from around southern Michigan so far. The Livonia and South Lyon clubs are already members. Larry came to the Detroit area in part to recruit more clubs to join.

GLARA chose a date with no hamfests within two weeks in an area stretching from western Pennsylvania to southern Wisconsin.

My impression is that GLHC intends to become a regional hamfest much like, say, Orlando Hamcation. The Dayton Hamvention draws about 25,000 attendees. Monroe, the largest hamfest in Michigan, draws about 1,000. According to Dave, projections for the first year of GLHC are a crowd of 3,000 to 5,000 across the two days. MIS has made a



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HPARC needs volunteers for these positions:

**Nominating Committee:** 1 - 3 people who will contact members who qualify to be Officers on the Board. They will run the election at the May meeting. Nominating Committee members are exempt from election to the Board while serving on the committee.

**DART Chair:** manages/ works with the technical team to maintain the DART repeater VHF and UHF systems. creates/ maintains detailed documentation of the systems. Represents the team at Board and regular meetings. Is responsible for any budget expenditures.

**Zero Beat Editor:** After 5 years as Zero Beat Editor, Wes AC8JF will step down after the June issue. We need someone who can take over as Editor beginning in August for the September issue. Wes has offered to help with the transition. The Zero Beat is sent out September through June in electronic format on or before the first of the month. Information particular to HPARC plus the general amateur radio community is included. Good computer and English skills, access to the internet and some form document creating program (currently using Publisher but other is ok) are needed. The Zero Beat Editor is a non-voting but participating member of the Board and asked to attend the Board meetings.

**Banquet Chair:** Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner is the Second Wednesday of June. The Board overwhelmingly voted in favor of a change of venue. We usually get about 50 people although with a good venue and food we could get more. Cash bar optional but desirable.

Contact President JD KD8VXZ on 248.821.3045 to volunteer for any of these positions. The nominating committee is needed ASAP.

Vy 73,  
Marsha Fleming N8FE  
1st VP HPARC  
[n8fe@arrl.net](mailto:n8fe@arrl.net)

## MICHIGAN QSO PARTY

Coming up soon is the Michigan QSO Party contest. It runs from noon to midnight EDT on Saturday, April 15, 80 to 10 meters phone and CW. This is a fun contest where, unlike other contests, everyone wants to call you.

The rules are pretty simple. For every contact, you give a serial number and your Michigan county. The other station gives you the same, or his state or province if not in Michigan. You can contact a station once on each band and mode. Best bands are 20 and 40 meters in daylight, then 40 and 80 meters after dark.

More information, including full rules and a list of Michigan counties, can be found at <http://www.miqp.org/>

## APRIL CONTESTS

### April 2017

April Contests

- 1-2 Mississippi QSO Party
- 1-2 Missouri QSO Party
- 2 North American SSB Sprint
- 8-9 Georgia QSO Party
- 8-9 New Mexico QSO Party
- 15-16 Michigan QSO Party
- 15-16 Ontario QSO Party
- 15-16 North Dakota QSO Party
- 16 ARRL Rookie Roundup
- 22-23 Nebraska QSO Party
- 29-30 Florida QSO Party

Field Day June 24-25

## GLHC, CONT'D

commitment to develop this hamfest over several years. Right now, GLHC is recruiting exhibitors, including large dealers from Ohio. There's a slight possibility that radio manufacturers will be there. Expect to see a lot of advertising through social media and in QST. Larry Camp was enthusiastic that over time, Great Lakes HamCon could become a big event on the national hamfest scene.

## FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by President, JD KD8VXZ.

Pledge of allegiance said.

No license upgrades.

Introductions were made.

Presentation by Ken AD8M on antenna system design, with concentration on optimizing feedline lengths for the frequency being used.

Break with coffee and donuts.

Report on swap from Hugh KE8BED: More tables were sold than last year, 99 sold. There were some no-shows, but we did a little better than last year, and some things being planned for next year. Thanks to Les AA8UU and Ken AD8M for help passing out fliers and emailing vendors. JD announced that we are creating a swap interest group to make future swaps even better. JD Thanked Hugh for all his work organizing the swap.

Bob N8REL treasurer's report- We did well, income just over \$3,400 with expenses about \$1,650, profit around \$1,750, with some checks still coming in. We had a pretty good month, but some additional expenses, totaling \$2,895 – among them: late expenses from banquet last year, website hosting, insurance, and other things.

Jerry W9NPI VE report. Exam sessions at swap- 6 people took exams: 2 didn't pass, 2 new technicians, 1 general upgrade and 1 extra upgrade. Jerry is circulating info about classes in the fall.

4 People tested last night at the Oak Park Recreation Center, 2 new techs, 1 general upgrade, and 1 extra upgrade.

JD KD8VXZ – Motion to discuss expense of new Fusion Repeater for the UHF site, under the \$600 purchase program that we got the VHF repeater.

Discussion – Sean K8KHZ There are 3 common digital systems; Fusion would tie to Yaesu equipment. Do we want to tie down to that standard?

Aaron W8VIP – Can we plan on adding a card to add DSTAR support to the repeater? Murray KE8UM- We can't have card in addition to the regular controller, with the currently available setup. Fusion repeater deal is back on at \$600, but to use the controller we would also need a \$100 module. There is an audio problem with the exist-

ing repeater; it was repaired from a power surge but still doesn't work perfectly.

Jerry N8UUF – Are people even using the 440 repeater? Lots of dead air heard

W8MJC – What is it? Murray KE8UM – it is an older commercial Vertex unit.

W8MJC – GM club contemplating same upgrade but decided to wait for the next model.

(Further discussion on this between various members)

Wes AC8JF – What is the overall plan for DART? Today we have wide-coverage analog (i.e. remote receivers) and narrow-coverage digital on VHF.

Murray KE8UM – Want to replace it, Fusion is not the goal, just side effect. A power surge damaged it years ago and it was repaired and ever since the audio has been not so good. The DR2 is coming soon and will have a better controller, but it is not available yet and likely will be more expensive.

Vote: Nays have it, we will not buy the repeater now.

Marsha N8FE- First weekend in march has siren test Saturday 1pm. We need volunteers to report whether sirens are working, some people have signed up, but we need more. See the article in the Zero Beat.

JD KD8VXZ said that when he told people that HPARC does the siren test they thanked us for doing it.

Meeting closed 8:55

Respectfully Submitted,

Reuven Gevanyahu KB3EHW, HPARC Secretary

## MARCH MEETING MINUTES

The March 8 meeting was cancelled due to high winds and widespread power outages, including at the meeting hall.

So, there are no March minutes.

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## HPARC NETS

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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.

**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.

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## AROUND TOWN

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### 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. Contact **Marsha N8FE** at [n8fe@arr.net](mailto:n8fe@arr.net) to be assigned a siren to test.

THIS MONTH ONLY: The siren test will be held on Wednesday, April 19, at 1:00 PM>

### 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

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## HAMFESTS

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### 04/22/2017 Chassell Hamfest 9-1

Chassell VFW, 42103 US-41, Chassell, MI (Near Houghton)  
Talk-in: 147.315 (PL 100)  
<http://kcra-mi.net/>

### Upcoming:

5/6 Cadillac Amateur Radio Swap  
5/19-21 Dayton Hamvention, Xenia, OH

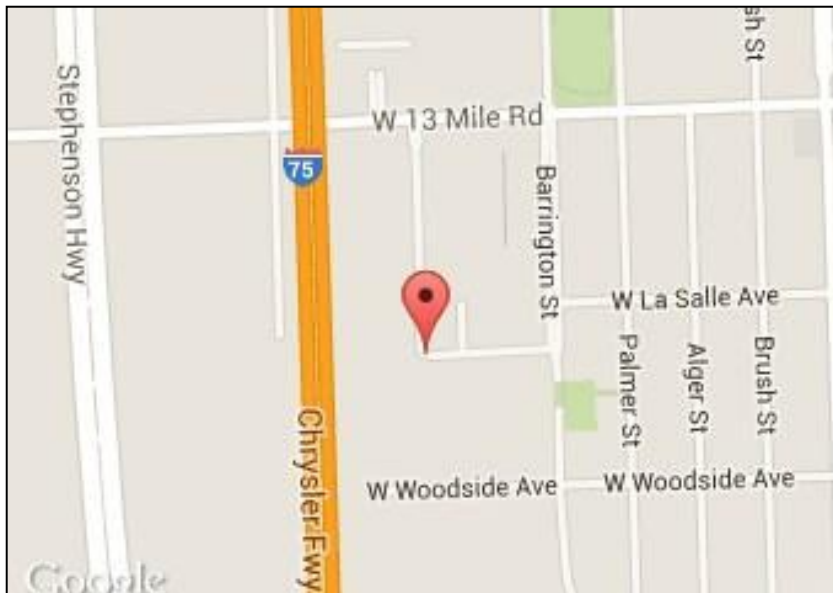
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**2017 Meetings**  
 April 12  
 May 10

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

**PLACE**  
 UFCW Hall  
 876 Horace Brown Dr.  
 Madison Heights 48071

**Annual Banquet**  
 June 14



**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?**