

The Zero Beat

THIS MEETING

October 10, 2012
7:30 P.M.
 (socializing begins at 7)
Hoover Elementary School
23720 Hoover Ave.
Hazel Park 48030

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GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will be held on Wednesday, October 10, at 7:30 pm. Ryan Marrs K8RDM will talk about the challenge of fox hunting, including what equipment and antennas to use.

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 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

Welcome back to all of the folks who have returned after the summer and made it to the September meeting. The presentation about the Hellschreiber machine was quite interesting.

Mechanically converting text and graphics into pulses is an interesting idea. The description of the mechanism shows that a whole lot can be done without microprocessors or even much electronics. Things are different now.

For the first meeting we did not have any sound system at all, but we will have one for the next meeting since it is clear that not everybody could hear. It is important for all to be able to hear. It is sometimes a challenge to pay attention when you can't hear what is being said.

I don't have any DX contacts or any contests to announce, but I would like those who participate in these activities to tell us about them at our club meeting the next month, and possibly share a write-up in the Zero Beat with us as well.

We have an assistant swap chairman now, which is good because now is the time when the first swap activities must get started. A successful ham radio club swap does take a lot of advance effort.

I am still looking for a net manager for the Sunday night net. The job is not hard, and does not require one to be net control every time. The net manager is supposed to have a team of operators to take turns being net control. If there are ten operators then each one only has to be net control five times a year. That is not a lot of work.

For those members who read QST, what about that article on a transistor 1KW amplifier for 2 meters? I was quite disappointed when there were no circuit drawings included, only references to some websites. The circuit drawings are educational for most readers, so what were the editors thinking?

One last item is about the repeater. For years we have been calling the DART "the friendliest repeater in town", and it seems to be just that. But it does take a bit of work to keep that reputation. We all need to put in a bit more effort to answer that call from the stranger that we hear, and make them feel welcome. A little bit of talk to a stranger is not expensive and doesn't take that much time. In addition, in order to hang onto frequencies we need to be using them. That is how we lost so much of the 220 band, and

(Continued on page 2)

OFFICERS

- **President:** Bill Ketel
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VOLUNTEERS

- **Technical Coordinator & W8HP Trustee :**
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- **HPARC Official Cook:**
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- **Holiday Party:** The Board
- **Webmaster:**
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QRM, CONT'D.

(Continued from page 1)

the pressure of the various commercial groups for more bandwidth is increasing all the time. So it is very much "use it or lose it" with our frequency allotments.

73, from N8QVS

Hamfest Help Wanted

The 47th annual HPARC Hamfest is coming up on Sunday, January 13, 2013. That's less than four months away. Volunteers are needed for setup on Saturday, staffing the hamfest on Sunday morning, and teardown Sunday afternoon.

Signup sheets will be available at the club meeting. Come on out for a few hours in January! Your volunteer efforts will help the club and add to the good reputation of our hamfest throughout southeast Michigan.

VE3 MOBILE
STILL OK

Amateurs worried about Ontario's tough Driver Distraction law can breathe a little easier. Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), the national amateur radio association, announced a new five-year exemption for hams and two-way commercial operators running mobile stations.

Ontario Transportation Minister Bob Chiarelli confirmed the exemption, good to January 1, 2018. In his letter, Chiarelli hoped that hands-free alternatives would be in wide use by that date. RAC's strategy is to push for permanent exemptions like those already in place in other parts of Canada.

So those going to Windsor and beyond can operate mobile with no fear of getting a ticket.

DID YOU KNOW...

... Marsha N8FE has been nominated for the ARRL A-1 Operator Club. Operators are invited based on their clean signals, on-air operating procedure, judgment and courtesy.

... Gerry K8GT has his picture in the Sept.-Oct. 2012 issue of NCJ, in a gallery of contesters attending the Dayton Hamvention. One page earlier and Gerry would have been the centerfold!

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)

The "Geezer Net" changed their name in memory of Al N8WYO. Look for them every Tuesday night at 8:00 PM on **28.028 MHz**. As always, all amateurs are welcome and encouraged to join this net. 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 (LSB phone) daily at 7:00 PM local time with pre-net starting at about 6:30 PM. The nets start a half hour earlier in winter. You can get details from Joe, K8JRE joecuchetti@comcast.net or Ed, W8EDE ed@ellisgen.com.

Oakland County ARPSC

Every Thursday @ 8 pm on 146.90 (PL 100). Hospital Radio Net on last Thursday of each month during the net. (W8OAK-3 will run packet on 147.56 MHz for those wanting to practice and test their equipment) www.qsl.net/w8oak

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.

Nearby Club Nets on HF

Mon @ 7:30 PM, LCARC 15M CW, 21.165
Mon @ 8:30 PM, LCARC 15M SSB, 21.395
Wed @ 7:00 PM, USECA 6M SSB, 50.140
Fri @ 9 PM, USECA 80M CW, 3.570
Fri @ 10 PM, USECA 10M SSB, 28.425

ON-AIR EVENTS

Stations commemorating special events. Work these for special QSL cards and certificates.

10/01-28/2012 — CG3X — Honoring Alouette, Canada's first satellite launched 50 years ago. Kitchener, Ontario, 14.070

10/06-07/2012 — W40 — 24th Oliver Hardy Film Festival from his home town of Harlem, Georgia. 28.360, 21.360, 14.260, 7.260. ccarc.hamradioman.com

10/12-14/2012 — W1AW/6 — ARRL National Convention/Pacificon, Santa Clara, California. Both CW and SSB.

10/13/2012 — W0UK — Transmitting from Nowhere, Kansas, a stop along the Midland Railroad. www.wOuk.net

10/14/2012 — WB8BSA — Boy Scout Hike-O-Ree, Novi, Michigan

10/14-15/2012 — K8W, Marquette, Michigan.
10/14-20/2012—N8W, Seney, Michigan. Both celebrating National Wildlife Refuge Week

10/18-21/2012 — W8NP — 85th anniversary of the Massillon ARC, Ohio.

10/20/2012 — K1G, W6W, KC4TIE, N1C, N5O, K3G, N2A, W4Z, N4S, N3G, W7N, W8E, N4A, W1H, K4V, K4A, N1A — US Coast Guard Auxiliary 73rd Anniversary.

10/28/2012— N8A , W8A US Coast Guard Auxiliary 73rd Anniversary. Ann Arbor and Port Huron, Michigan.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Doug Gentry KD8RCU
Les Shuman KF8UU

SOUTH SUDAN AND KOSOVO LICENSES

Two new nations have started issuing amateur radio licenses.

In South Sudan, the telecommunications ministry has licensed James Z81A (K7QI) and Diya Z81D (YI1DZ). In addition, Z88Z has been licensed as a remote base station, to be operated by W7DXX from the USA. No word yet on when South Sudanese citizens will start to get their licenses.

In Kosovo, now recognized as independent by 92 countries but not by the United Nations, ham radio operation is just getting underway. Local amateurs, formerly with Serbian callsigns, are organizing to push for regular licensing. The first Kosovar station, Z60K, went on the air in September to demonstrate the hobby.

However, Kosovo has not yet been assigned a callsign block by the IARU, so Z6, currently unused, was taken unofficially. Contacts with Z6 stations do not count for DXCC at this time.

Kosovar amateur radio has unfortunately been caught up in world politics, with Russia and China against recognition of the country. So for now it will exist in a gray area.

C Q D X

3D Conway Reef — 3D2C is active with several stations until 10/05. 19 operators are running CW, SSB, PSK31 and SSTV.

5U Niger — Christian 5U5U is active from Niamey, Niger until 10/15, joined by 2 European operators licensed as 5U6E and 5U8NK. QSL details on the DXpedition [website](#).

TT8 Chad — TT8TT is active with an Italian team of operators 10/03-16. Will operate 160 through 6, CW, SSB and RTTY. Details on DXpedition [website](#).

5H Tanzania — Arne 5H2DK will be active 10/2-17 from Moshi, Tanzania, on SSB. QSL via home call OH2NNE.

F0 French Polynesia — Didier F0/F6BCW will operate from six Polynesian islands, starting on Tahiti, 10/02-11/08. CW only. QSL via home call.

T30 Western Kiribati — T30PY will be active 10/16-25 with a team of 9 Brazilian operators. Details via MDXC.

BY1WXD/0 — Tibet, to 10/07

JT1EV, JT1GVX — Mongolia, 10/02-08

AH0KT — Saipan, 10/04-09

OD5/IV3XNF — Lebanon, through October

CONTEST CORNER

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

October 2012

5-7 DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest (YLs only)

6 TARA PSK Rumble Contest, PSK

6 Worked All Provinces of China

[6-7 Oceania DX Contest, SSB](#)

[6-7 California QSO Party](#)

[13-14 Oceania DX Contest, CW](#)

13-14 Scandinavian Activity Contest

13-14 QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party, CW

13 Arizona Centennial QSO Party

13 Pennsylvania QSO Party

15-19 ARRL School Club Roundup

20-21 JARTS WW Contest, RTTY

20-21 10-10 Fall QSO Party, CW

20 Iowa QSO Party

[20-21 New York QSO Party](#)

20-21 Stew Perry Topband Warmup, 160m CW

20-21 W/VE Islands QSO Party

21-22 Illinois QSO Party

[27-28 CQ WWDX Contest, SSB](#)

November 2012

[3-5 ARRL Sweepstakes, CW](#)

[17-19 ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB](#)

[24-25 CQ WWDX Contest, CW](#)

ONTARIO NOW FOUR SECTIONS

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has split the most populous Canadian province into four sections, effective September 1. The Ontario section is replaced by Ontario North, Ontario South, Ontario East and Greater Toronto Area (ONN, ONS, ONE and GTA, respectively). Windsor and southwest Ontario are part of Ontario South.

Ontario North, the largest, least populated new section, will likely be a "rare one."

The first activity using the change is the ARRL Sweepstakes, which will now require 83 multipliers to achieve a Clean Sweep. Other contests that use sections, such as Field Day, will also change. Some logging software already handles this change, while some vendors' software will not be updated until as late as January 2013.

Full details, including a map of the new sections, can be found via the [ARRL website](#).

SOLAR CYCLE PEAK EXPECTED MID-2013

By Wes Plouff AC8JF

This sunspot cycle, Cycle 24, has been probably the poorest in living memory. It's been so weak and slow to start that some people have even speculated sunspot cycles could disappear.

Expert predictions say otherwise. Sunspots won't disappear, but some cycles are better than others.

Older hams can remember stories about hams "loading up a light bulb" and getting calls from all over, or working the world on ten watts. These stories likely came from Cycle 19, which peaked around 1959 with smoothed sunspot numbers around 200. In contrast, Cycle 24 is expected to peak in the 70s.

In August, Dr. David Hathaway, a solar physicist at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, gave his annual "solar cycle update" talk at the Huntsville Hamfest. While it wasn't all gloom and doom, Hathaway pointed out that the current Cycle 24 has one of the lowest levels of sunspot counts since record-keeping began more than two centuries ago.

Hathaway presented NASA's latest predictions, down slightly from last year's estimates. The graph below tells the story. His conclusions, verbatim from his slides:

- Cycle 24 will peak in mid-2013.
- Cycle 24 will be the smallest cycle in 100 years.

So next year should bring the best propagation for a while.

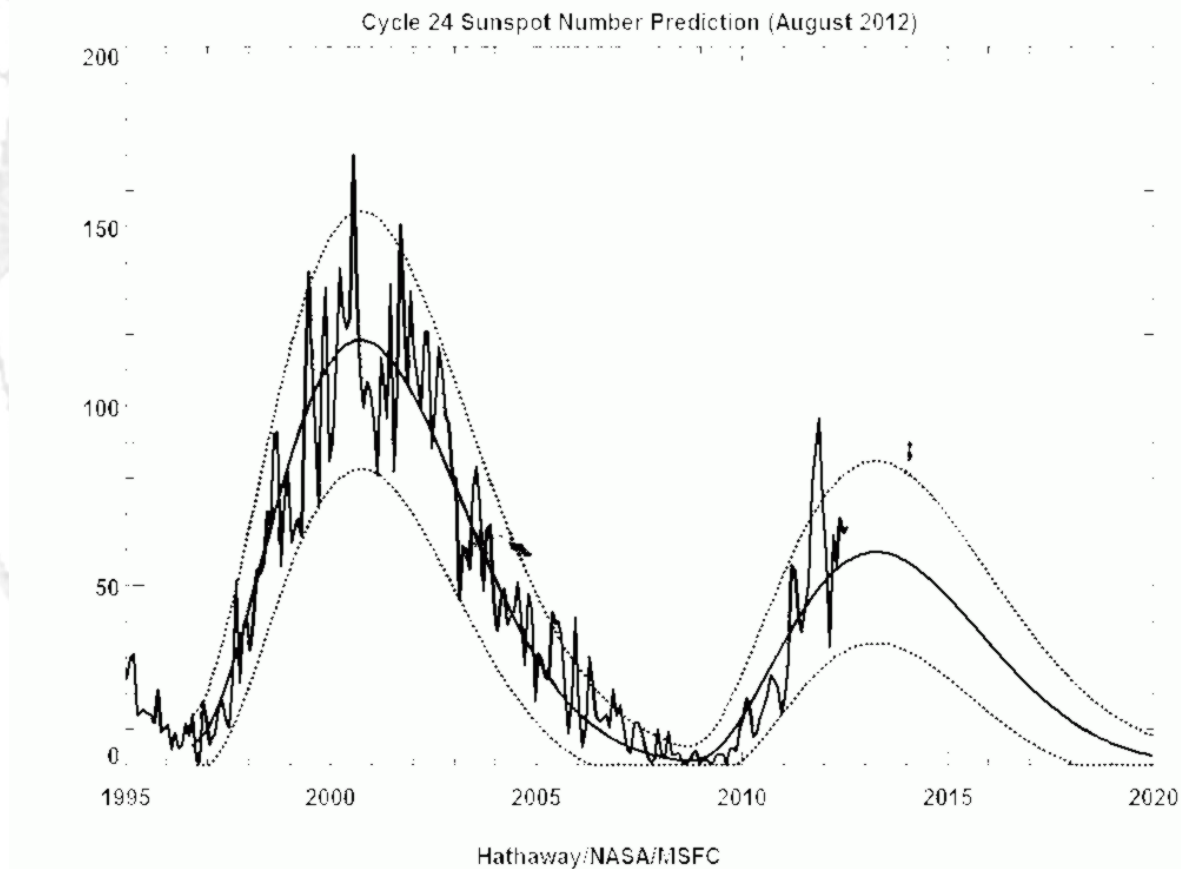


Figure: Observed and predicted sunspot numbers as of August 2012
Presented by Dr. David Hathaway at the Huntsville, AL, Hamfest

MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2012

The meeting was called to order by club president Bill N8QZS at 1930 hours.

There were no visitors or upgrades.

The club members present voted to accept and welcomed two new members: Les Shuman KF8UU and Doug Gentry KD8RCU.

Bob KD8AMP presented the treasurer's report and the progress of the club effort to be granted Federal Non-Profit Organization with tax-exempt status under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The club currently has Non-Profit Organization status granted by the State of Michigan.

Murray KE8UM reported on the status of the repeater system repairs, maintenance and proposed upgrades.

Bernie W8NBC requested a volunteer to be assistant chairman of the club Swap meet. Swap meet will be held on 20 January 2013 at Hazel Park High School. After the meeting Les Shuman volunteered to assist Bernie.

Club President Bill N8QVS requested a volunteer to manage the weekly Sunday night 2 meter radio net.

Club Second Vice-President Larry K8MU presented a program about his DXpedition from Hell, Michigan that used Hellschreiber mode. The presentation started with the history of the Hellschreiber operating mode and how it works. Larry continued with several examples of proof that Murphy's Law; "If something can go wrong, it will." is still valid. There were several temporary setbacks described as well as the fixes Larry and his assistant came up with to solve them during the two hour Hellschreiber contest from Hell, Michigan that is of course. As always, Larry represented HPARC in the best possible light and helped spread the word about our great club. Our thanks to Larry for another job well done.

There was a comment about club jacket and tee-shirt sales. Members wanting to order a jacket or tee-shirt should check the club web site www.hparc.org or contact Walt KD8LWC for information.

Rey W8REY proposed a new 50-50 raffle to be conducted at general membership meetings, with proceeds to be allocated toward the purchase of prizes for presentation at the annual club banquet. Rey also requested that the club board consider his proposal.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 2105 hours. Meeting adjourned at 2105 hours.



FCC ON PROPERTY COVENANTS: NO NEW RULES

By Wes Plouff AC8JF

In recent years, property covenants, homeowners association rules and other private restrictions on amateur antennas have made it much more difficult to put a station on the air in some parts of the country. Early this year, as mandated by Public Law 112-96, the FCC was required to study the uses and capabilities of amateur radio in emergencies and disaster relief. One key section included the goal of identifying "impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications," or in other words, these private, non-zoning property restrictions, known collectively as "CC&Rs."

In April, the FCC opened a proceeding that asked sixteen specific questions. The ARRL jumped in with both feet, filing a 128-page brief with dozens of examples of restrictive covenants. The League pointed out that "association-governed communities" were home to 62 million Americans, and in the last five years, 80 percent of new housing was organized this way. The League saw this as a significant problem for raising amateur antennas. ARRL claimed: "The result is that in the areas of the country with the fastest population growth it is virtually impossible to avoid restrictive covenants when purchasing a home."

The FCC's report in August didn't buy this argument.

In 1985, the Commission's "PRB-1" order partly preempted local and state antenna regulations, ruling that they needed to be minimal and reasonably accommodate amateur radio antennas and support structures. The FCC did not include CC&Rs in the order because they were private and no one forced a person to buy property subject to CC&Rs. An August QST editorial hoped the FCC would reverse itself and apply PRB-1 types of preemption to private restrictions.

Instead, the FCC concluded: "[W]hile commenters suggest that private land use restrictions have become more common, our review of the record does not indicate that amateur operators are unable to find homes that are not subject to such restrictions." The Commission thus saw no reason to regulate private restrictions.

In other words, it's up to individual amateurs to find homes where they're allowed to put antennas up. The Federal government is not going to take sides.

In another part of the ruling, the FCC recommended that the Department of Homeland Security get more involved in developing standardized training for amateur emergency operations, and standardized policies for amateur access to disaster areas. It's too soon to tell whether DHS will do anything with this.

HAMFESTS

10/07/2012 USECA Hamfest 8-2

UFC Workers 876 Hall
876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights, MI
(W of John R, S of 13 Mile Rd)
<http://www.usecaarc.com>
Talk-In: 147.18 (PL 100)

10/13/2012 Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest 8-12

Fellowship Reformed Church
4200 East Apple Ave, Muskegon, MI
<http://www.mcecs.net/Hamfest.htm>
Talk-In: 146.82 (PL 94.8)
3.3 hours from Hazel Park

10/13/2012 Hamilton ARC Hamfest 9-?

Ancaster Fair Grounds
630 Trinity Rd, Ancaster, Ontario
<http://www.hamiltonarc.ca/activities/harc-hamfest/>
Talk-In: 146.76 (PL 131.8)
3.5 hours from Hazel Park. Passport or enhanced driver's license required at the border

10/21/2012 Kalamazoo Hamfest 8-12

Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds
2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI
<http://www.kalamazooohamfest.com/>
Talk-In: 147.04 (PL 94.8)

1/13/2013 Hazel Park ARC Hamfest

Mark your calendars!

NEW WUST AWARD

Here's a new award that's deceptively simple. The Worked US Territories Award requires working 14 of the sixteen US-owned territories recognized by the IARU. Sponsored by the Metro DX Club, in the Chicago area, the goal of the award is to give hams a challenge not requiring hundreds of hours and hundreds of QSL cards.

The sixteen territories are:

- KG4 Guantanamo Bay
- KH0 Mariana Islands
- KH1 Baker & Howland Islands
- KH2 Guam
- KH3 Johnston Island

AROUND TOWN

HPARC Buddy Breakfast every Saturday @ 9:30 a.m.

Jimi's Restaurant, Washington Ave. just north of Sixth St. (across from OCC), in Royal Oak. Lots of spaces in Jimi's parking lot, and street parking is free until 11 AM.

Oakland Co. ARPSC Siren Testing, 1st Saturday @ 1 p.m.

Continues through November. Pre-net on the DART repeater at about 12:30. Contact Marsha N8FE to get pre-assigned to a siren in southeast Oakland County

Macomb Community College Electronic Lab

3rd Saturday of each month from 8AM — 12 Noon
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.

WUST AWARD, CONT'D

- KH4 Midway Island
- KH5 Palmyra & Jarvis Islands
- KH5K Kingman Reef
- KH7K Kure Island
- KH8 American Samoa
- KH8S Swains Island
- KH9 Wake Island
- KP1 Navassa Island
- KP2 US Virgin Islands
- KP4 Puerto Rico
- KP5 Desecheo Island

Some of these locations can be worked this week or next month. A few of the rare ones could take years, though. For this reason, MDXC issues the basic award for confirmation of fourteen of the territories. So the bar is set pretty high for WUST. It will take careful attention and good timing to work the last few.

DXCC #1 Honor Roll members can get the award automatically. The rest of us will have to try hard.

Full details are on the MDXC [website](http://www.mdxc.org).

HPARC ZERO BEAT

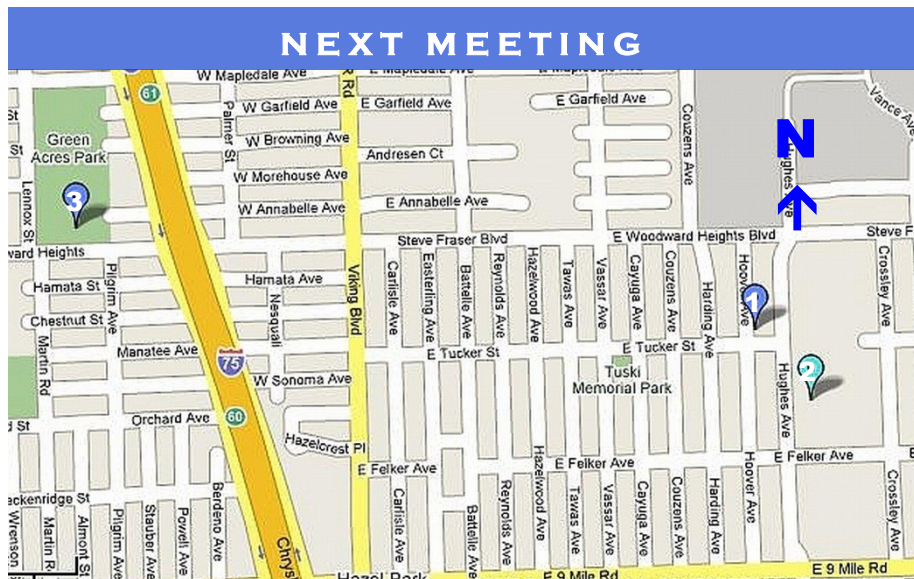
Mark Your Calendar

October 10
November 14
December 12

January 9
February 13
March 13
April 10
May 8

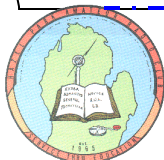
Socializing @ 7:00 PM
Meeting @ 7:30 PM

Hoover Elementary School
23720 Hoover Ave.
Hazel Park 48030



1 meeting 2 Swap 3 Picnic

We're on the Web
www.hparc.org



Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 368
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Please check mailing label — is your membership about to expire?