

# The Zero Beat

## THIS MEETING

**March 13, 2013**  
**7:30 P.M.**  
 (socializing begins at 7)  
**Hoover Elementary School**  
**23720 Hoover Ave.**  
**Hazel Park 48030**

## CONTENTS

Alaska QSO Party	4
Around Town	9
Contests/DX	4
Dayton Bus	8
Facebook	2
From Foreigner's Eyes	5
Hamfests	9
Licensing Results	7
Meeting Minutes	8
Nets	3
New Members	2
Officers/Volunteers	2
Organizational Vote	7
QRM	1
Siren Net	3
\$3 DX QSL	9
Want Ad	7

## GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will be held on Wednesday, March 13, at 7:30 PM. This month's program is "Ham Radio Movie Night" — with a twist! The "movies" are a series of ham radio related videos culled from network television shows, Hollywood feature films and shorts, newsreels, animations, and military training films. The "twist" is that the videos will be shown "Gong Show" style -- if anybody in the audience thinks any video is boring or isn't entertaining enough, he can "gong" the video to stop it immediately and we'll go on to the next one. In keeping with the movie theme, popcorn will be served.

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

As we enter March we can realize that we have survived most of a Michigan winter again. At least most of us have survived it. I did lose a good friend, not a club member, to a sudden heart attack this winter. He was quite a few years my junior, and it came as quite a shock, since he had no previous complaints of heart problems.

Our fairly successful swap is now history, and after all the bills have been paid, we did come out ahead, so we will not be needing to tighten our belts this year.

Field day is approaching in June, and our present plan is to have our field day at the Hazelwood property again this year. But that future is a bit uncertain,

since the Hazel Park School District is said to be putting that property up for sale, and it does not seem likely that a new owner would be willing to let us use it for our gathering. Perhaps some wealthy club member would purchase the property from the school district and let the club use part of it once a year. But presently we will plan on our field day being at Hazelwood, until we are told otherwise. For those who have not participated at this location, this is certainly the year to come on out and see how we do it.

The presentation at our March meeting promises to be quite a bit different from any of those that we have seen recently, and it should be both interesting and entertaining, and possibly even educational. The

*(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  
[K8ABZ@arri.net](mailto:K8ABZ@arri.net)
- **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:** Wes Plouff  
AC8JF 248-420-9712  
[ac8jf@arri.net](mailto:ac8jf@arri.net)
- **Parliamentarian:**  
Ed Walton N8LBS  
248-649-5851 [walt-toned@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:walt-toned@sbcbglobal.net)

## VOLUNTEERS

- **Technical Coordinator & W8HP Trustee :**  
Murray Scott  
[KE8UM@arri.net](mailto:KE8UM@arri.net)
- **W8JXU Trustee:**  
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Education/VE Testing:**  
Jerry Begel W9NPI  
[w9npi@comcast.net](mailto:w9npi@comcast.net)
- **Contest Mentors:**  
Mike WD8S [wd8s@arri.net](mailto:wd8s@arri.net)  
Gerry K8GT [k8gt@arri.net](mailto:k8gt@arri.net)
- **Public Information Officer:**  
Jerry Begel W9NPI  
[w9npi@comcast.net](mailto:w9npi@comcast.net)
- **LoTW Manager:**  
Murray Scott KE8UM  
[ke8um@arri.net](mailto:ke8um@arri.net)
- **Newsletter:**  
Wes Plouff AC8JF  
[ac8jf@arri.net](mailto:ac8jf@arri.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@arri.net](mailto:aa8uu@arri.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 [k8abz@arri.net](mailto:k8abz@arri.net)

## QRM, CONT'D.

(Continued from page 1)

presentation will be by our own K8MU, Larry.

In May comes that glorious tradition, the Dayton Hamvention. Each year a number of our club members have participated in this unique event. It is certainly an impressive gathering by any standard. I have not heard about any organized effort to organize a group to travel to Dayton this year. If anyone is organizing such a trip, please announce it at our March meeting.

Also coming up is the May officer elections, so if you have any desire to be an officer and help run the club, please contact the election committee, or if you don't want to be elected to any office, volunteer to be on the election committee. Being a club officer is a way to help decide what is going to happen with the club.

If you have been at the past few meetings you probably noticed that we have been experimenting with different PA systems. Our goal is for everybody to be able to not only hear clearly, but to be able to understand what is being presented at each meeting. So when I ask if everybody can hear, it is not a joke, we really do need to know how well the system is functioning.

Once again I need to thank Bernie and Barb for having the coffee ready at the start of the meeting, instead of waiting until the mid-meeting break. It makes our "Meet and Greet" time even more enjoyable.

I look forward to seeing everybody at the March 13 meeting.

73 de N8QVS

## HPARC ON FACEBOOK

Club members are now posting about HPARC on Facebook. Sean Fleming N8KHZ has started an informal Hazel Park club page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hparcgroup/> visible to anyone with a Facebook ID.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Tom Tomaszewski AB8XD**  
**Tony Bauman N8CNO**

## 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

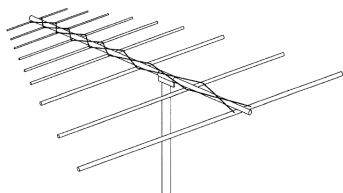
Every Thursday @ 8 pm on 146.90 (PL 100). Hospital Radio Net on last Thursday of each month @7:30. (W8OAK-3 will run packet on 147.56 MHz for those wanting to practice and test their equipment) <http://www.arpac.com/>

### 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.

### 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



## SIREN NET

By Marsha Fleming N8FE

The 2013 Siren testing season has arrived. These outdoor weather sirens are used to alert anyone outdoors of a tornado warning and recently they added dangerous winds whereby people could be injured.

The purpose of a visual test of the site is to determine if there is anything wrong with the structure, any vegetation growing around it, Does the antenna appear ok?, any bird nests in the older models, and of course did it sound and rotate? The County must verify almost 300 sirens every year. With our help they made their goal 2 years in a row. Lets make it three.

The first one is March 2nd. I am out of town this month and Ed N8LBS will be net Control and round up the our usual cast of players. If you would like to join us on the first Saturday of the month then let us know. People will be assigned any siren that needs to be covered in our area.

You can contact Ed at [waltoned@sbcglobal.net](mailto:waltoned@sbcglobal.net) with CC to [n8fe@arri.net](mailto:n8fe@arri.net)

The April siren test will be a special day and time - Wednesday, April, 10 at 1pm. I will return and am looking for volunteers. We will cover sirens not covered in March. If you are available please send an email to Ed and myself so we can make assignments. I will start making calls as is our custom before siren day.

Please check the website [www.hparc.org](http://www.hparc.org) for a list of the cities we cover.

Before I end I want to give a big thank you to Ed who is making it possible for me to be guilt free while I visit my family in VK land. As of writing this it is 75 degrees @0800. I am bottling it up and hope customs will let me bring some home.

Vy 73,

Marsha N8FE

SE Subnet Siren Test coordinator  
 HPARC with ARPSC

*Editor's Note: Members living in Macomb County can contact Andrew Young KB8MUA about participating in the Macomb Siren Net. Phone him at 586-552-9344*



## C Q D X

**3B9 Rodrigues Is.** – 3B9DX, operators Toshi, Ken and Yoshiko, will be active until 3/10 on 80-10m CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL direct to EA5GL.

**FO Clipperton Is.** – TX5K will operate from this nearby yet rare DX until 3/10. Details at <http://www.tx5k.org/>.

**J8 St. Vincent** – J88DR Dave will be active until 3/11 on "all bands" CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via G3TBK.

**VP2M Montserrat** – Michiganders VP2MRS Jack (KB8RJ) and VP2MUR Crissie (WD8KUR) will be active until 3/14 on 80-10m SSB with some PSK31. QSL via KB8RJ.

**XU7 Cambodia** – XU7AFU Eddy will be active until 3/14, 40-10m CW only. QSL via ON4AFU, direct or bureau.

**XU7 Cambodia** – XU7ACQ John will be active until 3/18 on 80-10m SSB, CW and digital modes. QSL via KFORQ.

**5V Togo** – 5V7JD Jack will be active holiday style from Lome, Togo, until 3/15. QSL via F8AEJ.

**V6 Micronesia** – V63DXA Mike, will be active as V63DXA until 3/21 mostly on 20m SSB, with some CW, from several atolls. QSL via WB7DXA.

**5X Uganda** – 5X1XA Alan will operate CW during March. QSL via G3SWH.

**9X Rwanda** – 9X0NH Nick will operate 80-10m mainly CW 3/4-3/13. Callsign is tentative. QSL via G3RWF.

**7P Lesotho** – 7P8PB Peter will be on the air 3/6-3/26 in his spare time. QSL via EI7CC.

**YB Indonesia** – YB6N Nias Island will be activated by Imam, YB4IR and others 3/7-3/13 March. QSL via YB4IR.

**YB Indonesia** – Look for YB3MM/6, YB6AR/p, YC6EI/p and YF1AR/6 to be active from Rondo Island 3/9-3/17. Website at [www.mdx.org/oc-245/](http://www.mdx.org/oc-245/).

**H44 Solomon Is.** – An international DXpedition will operate as H44G from Guadalcanal 160-6m CW, SSB and digital modes from several stations 3/8-3/25. Details at <http://www.dl7df.com/h4/index.php>.

**H40 Temotu Province** – Some of the H44 team will operate as H40T from Nendo Is. 3/12-3/23.

**9M4 Spratly Is.** – The Borneo Amateur Radio Club will operate 9M4SLL from Pulau Layang Layang Is. 3/10-3/18, with up to 5 stations active on 160-10m CW, SSB and RTTY. Information at <http://m0urx.com/9m4sll.html>.

**FS St. Martin** – FS/DK5ON Andy will be active 3/10-3/29 on 80-6m. He will also operate PJ7/ from the Dutch side of the island. QSL via home call DK5ON.

**KH0 Northern Mariana Is.** – JE1XUZ Sam (KH0XH) and JQ2WTT Tama (KH0XW) will be active from Saipan 3/10-4/1. QSL via home calls, direct or bureau.

**T2 Tuvalu** – Members of the GMDX group will operate T2GM 3/12-3/23 with two stations. More information at <http://t2gm.org>.

**E0 Easter Is.** – four British operators will be active as XROYG from Easter Island 3/20-3/27. They will operate mainly CW on 160-10m, with a focus on the low bands. QSL via G3TXF. Expedition website at <http://xr0yg.com/>.

## CONTEST CORNER

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

## March 2013

**2-3 ARRL Int'l SSB DX Contest**

6-7 and 9-10 AWA John Rollins Memorial

9-10 RSGB Commonwealth Contest, CW

(UK/Commonwealth only)

9-10 EA PSK63 Contest

9-10 Idaho QSO Party

10-11 Wisconsin QSO Party

16-18 BARTG HF RTTY Contest

**16-17 Russian DX Contest**

16-17 Oklahoma QSO Party

16-17 Virginia QSO Party

17 North American Sprint, SSB

19-20 and 23-24 CLARA HF Contest (YL oriented)

23 ARLHS Lighthouse QSO Party

23-24 Alaska QSO Party

**30-31 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB**

## April 2013

6-7 SP DX Contest

6-7 Missouri QSO Party

**20-21 Michigan QSO Party**

## ALASKA QSO PARTY

The title is not a misprint! It turns out that Alaska has a state QSO Party contest after all, a relatively low-key affair.

The contest runs from 1800Z, Saturday, March 23, to 2359Z, Sunday, March 24, on 160 through 10 meters. Propagation will be interesting – in Anchorage, the sun rises and sets around noon and midnight Michigan time, respectively. In Juneau, sunrise and sunset are an hour earlier, and in Nome, an hour later. Logs are submitted on paper because of the unusual scoring system. The first contact with an Alaska station counts 1 point, while subsequent contacts, one per band, count 2 points.

Full details are at <http://www.kl7yk.us/akqso.htm>.

**VK9C Cocos-Keeling Is.** – VK9CZ, operators Chris GM3WOJ and Keith GM4YXI, will be active as 3/30-4/13. DXpedition website at [www.vk9cz.com](http://www.vk9cz.com).

**5W Samoa** – A German team will operate 5WOM 4/04-4/18 from Savai'i Is. on 80-6m, CW, SSB and RTTY. See <http://5w0m.hkmann.de/>.

## HAM RADIO FROM A FOREIGNER'S EYES

By Don Craft AB8RH/HS0ZBG

I can relate to the experience of a Thai amateur radio operator as he views our hobby from his grid, looking at the world through Thai eyes. Let me explain...

Up until 1988 Amateur Radio had been completely forbidden by the Thai government, fearing insurgency groups using radio during the post Vietnam war era. The culture of martial law resulted in a posture that Amateur Radio was difficult to control. And indeed radio was forbidden from the late 70s until a royal decree was used as leverage to permit Amateur Radio service again. There was already some history of Amateur Radio in Thailand from the early days in a world that had not yet actually controlled Amateur Radio strictly. Among some of the active Hams from the early days of ham radio was the only American born Ham, His Majesty the King, Bumipol Adulyadet, HS1A. Others simply bought equipment and operated using internationally accepted practices and homebrew call signs.

During the Vietnam War, when our soldiers were stationed in Thailand, and thanks to powerful Thai Army generals ham radio existed in a loose form. Thai and foreigners who loved radio founded the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) which loosely assigned arbitrary call signs to fellow Thai and American Hams for the period. But in the late 70s RAST became a society without any privileges except for special events from a club station. All other hams were officially forbidden until 1988.

In 1989, I saw an issue of a Thai language "CQ" magazine published and sold in a magazine shop. I purchased each magazine and read each from cover to cover. Americans who were living in Bangkok and members of the RAST wrote some of the articles and they were translated into Thai. Reading the mostly Thai language magazine, I discovered that the Thai Post and Telegraph Department (PTD) had finally granted 10 channelized FM VHF frequencies just above 144.000 with a single calling frequency where every newly licensed ham in a new service had to check in first and then QSY to one other allotted frequency. The PTD had assigned staff to monitor and control radio usage. They issued fines for not following

proper procedures. Soon the frequencies were very crowded and more bands were allocated.

The way to set up a station in those days was to fly to Singapore or Hong Kong and import a ham radio. All other existing radios in Thailand had to be surrendered to the PTD. When inspected, they could be claimed with an engraving stating the years the radios were accepted.

While home on furlough in 1990, I saw an article in the local news about the Ham classes and signed up, studied and passed my Novice class license and returned to Thailand. I received my license in the mail. As soon as I could, I went to the Post and Telegraph Department in Bangkok, and applied for my reciprocal Thai Ham license. I also joined and became a life member of the RAST.

Because of an international treaty, I could apply my USA Novice class license to be granted a reciprocal license for the Thai primary class, HS0ZBG, which was at that time permission to operate in the three provinces connected with Bangkok. But eventually all of Thailand was included.

The day I picked up my new license, the Commissioner of the PTD took a liking to me apparently, since I could speak Thai fluently, and suggested I upgrade in the Thai system. He reached in his desk drawer and presented me with his own application blank for the upgrade license to secondary (general) class. I filled it out and attached my photo and returned it to him and he submitted it for me. In ignorance, I did not see the part that I must be a Thai citizen, nor did the officer who accepted my application handed him by my new friend the commissioner.

I was told to go down to Bangkok and take my Secondary class exam in November 1991, and I passed both the Morse code and theory in a testing session with 995 applicants. I was part of the small group of only 81 persons who passed. Our names were published in newspapers and magazines. It was only discovered then, that I was not qualified to be granted an upgrade not being a Thai, but my friend pushed for an exception, which still took a number of months for the PTD to grant me an exception.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## FROM A FOREIGNER'S EYES CONT'D

In the meantime, since nearly the entire country were given the entire 144-145 Mhz frequency band to operate FM in 25 KHz channelized frequencies. I purchased my first radio, an Yaesu FT-415 handy talky, applied for a station license and a mobile license for my Toyota van and installed an Icom IC-229E. Incidentally, these first 40 channelized frequencies were expanded to include 144-146 Mhz but still completely ignored international agreements for use of the two meter band. For me it was loads of fun. I was able to talk in Thai to people locally and on the road. Thai people with money invested in huge sixty meter towers, two meter Yagi arrays and more expensive mobile radios with amplifiers. They could be heard for hundreds of miles on two meters. I did not need power of course, since I was an American with a Thai call sign and they wanted to talk with me. Since our children were enrolled in a boarding school 600 miles from our home, I had to travel and operate mobile and have fellow hams to talk with for the entire trip. These were fun days of learning how to operate (mostly incorrectly however) from my fellow Thai operators. They would ask me how Americans operated, how to use proper procedures and such and I simply could not tell them much other than what I read in magazines.

Then one exciting day, in March 1992, the PTD granted my Secondary class license allowing me to operate on 40-20-15 and 10 meters. I purchased my first HF radio, a Kenwood TS-50S, one of the few sold new in Thailand at that time that I could afford. There were no used radios at all. My first antenna was a dipole strung between two trees and I learned the magic of having an HS prefix. Whenever there was a band opening, I worked the world.

My daughter, Naomi KE4WKR, also obtained her callsign while at college and was able to get a packet modem and a small Icom handy-talky. I built my first error correcting HF AMTOR interface and with my computer, began using the world-wide Amateur Radio email link. Now, these modes are automatic and called Airlink. The new magic for me was I could communicate with USA with digital email and I checked and sent morning and evening mail to Naomi and other friends using the same links using Packet Radio, Pactor, and Amtor.

HF voice in those days in Thailand was the domain of a few Americans and German operators, with few Thai who were good in English. Pretty much our Thai brothers would work using a few phrases from scripts they learned. CW was much more available to Thai, since it did not demand fluency in English and CW scripts in English are pretty easy to decipher and slower speed than spoken speech. In fact many other countries who do not speak English, still prefer CW or digital modes today. Those we find on HF SSB are often limited to a few ham phrases. Echolink has become very popular in Thailand, as evidenced by the many "conferences" and the constant activity. They are usually very happy to speak in English, though full of fear, with you if you break into a Echolink conference. Virtually all of Thailand has Echolink coverage today. Other modes that Thai are interested is the APRS reporting and they have developed cutting edge devices for APRS.

The majority of the 270,000 Thai Hams cannot to this day pass the CW test to upgrade to Secondary class having become hams without older CW proficient hams. And CW does not lend itself to the Thai language, though there is a defined CW list for Thai language characters. CW proficiency still stands in the Thai requirements for upgrade, unaffected by the USA abandoning CW, and this may be due to the fact that the government is reluctant to change their requirements for Amateur Radio perhaps gaining little revenue from Amateur Radio. It would seem that altogether there are less than a few hundred who are operating CW with a HS call today.

On a personal level, my first experiences on the Dart repeater were fun, but the learning curve was steep since I had to learn how to fall naturally into a rotation when more than one operator was on the frequency. The first time I operated on the local Dart repeater, I was scolded time and again for not following rotation rules.

In Thailand however, all conversations are between two stations only. I have never seen Thai follow the rules for a round table or have nets with check-ins who take turns. The American radio term "With the group" simply means "my friends" (and used on or off the frequency). Often times there I am introduced as someone's "With the group" meaning friend when meeting in person.

## ORGANIZATIONAL VOTE NEEDED

By Bob Lau KD8AMP

We are in the process of working on our club application for Tax Exempt status under IRS section 501(c)(3.) This process will take some months as we assemble the needed documents and information and, maybe, make changes to club by-laws.

At our next member meeting we will be voting on two changes to our organizational documents:

**Articles of Incorporation.** We need to add a provision to our Articles of Incorporation that declares that in the event that the club quits activity and dissolves the corporation, any remaining assets will be donated to a tax exempt organization. The tax issue here is that non-profit organizations cannot be operated for the personal benefit of individuals. Our provision needs to declare that in such an event, the remaining assets will not just be "divvied up" among the board members or other club members to their personal benefit.

**By-Laws.** We need to add a provision to our By-Laws that declares that in the event that the club hires or contracts with club members for pay that the amounts paid would not exceed what would have to be paid to unrelated third parties in an arm's length transaction.

Both of these items were read at the last member meeting. If you would like to review them, I have posted them to the club's forum, [www.forum.hparc.org](http://www.forum.hparc.org), in the general discussion section. Feel free to post comments there should the spirit move you.

## LICENSE CLASS RESULTS

Jerry Begel W9NPI reports that the fall licensing classes had 4 Tech, 2 General and 6 Extra Class students.

Jerry has commitments for General and Extra courses in Southfield, probably starting in April. A Tech course is planned on the East Side (Rich Urbano) in late Spring or early Summer, and a new venue may be needed for any Tech courses planned on the West Side of the Detroit Metro Area.

VE exam results from Oak Park, Southfield, Clinton Twp and Warren are:

June through August 2012 — 20 people took the tests. 13 Tech, 5 General and 3 Extra Class licenses were earned.

October 2012 through February 2013 — 22 people took the tests. 7 Tech, 8 General and 2 Extra Class licenses were earned.



## WANT AD

**For Sale** — From the estate of W8GYV.

- Hallicrafters Sky Buddy receiver
- CDE antenna rotor control box
- LRIT satellite receiver, USB interface
- Scanning weather satellite receiver
- IFR 1100S FM-AM signal generator
- Motorola P-8501 FM transceiver test set MHz
- Motorola FM transceiver test sets, models S1056A/B, S1057A/B, S1058A/B, S1059A/B

- Astron 2412-12 DC-DC converter, 24v to 12v
- Radio Analyzer TS-684/UM-30
- Heathkit power supply—output to 30v, 3A
- GE554-20R 20A power supply
- Revas model 3435 600W 115v
- Mobile tuning meter
- Many RCA electron tubes

Please make an offer for any or all items. Phone Jeff Sklar at 586-219-2896.



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## MEETING MINUTES—FEBRUARY 2013

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

There were no license upgrades reported.

The club welcomed 2 new members, Tom Tomaszewski AB8XD and Tony Bauman N8CNO. The club also welcomed a visitor, Paul Mott KD8TYC.

Secretary Report: A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the January membership meeting as published in the Zero Beat Newsletter. The motion passed by voice vote.

Treasurer report was made by Bob KD8AMP. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer report. The motion passed by voice vote. Bob also read some proposed amendments to the club by-laws and Charter/constitution that will be needed for our 501 c (3) non-profit status application to the IRS. Copies of the proposals were also available for review.

Larry K8MU made his presentation about the club's new forum that is reachable on our webpage. Larry explained how the forum is set up and demonstrated how to access it. Larry's presentation was live on the forum and showed how to set up a user profile and several other aspects of individual selectable parameters that are available on the forum.

A break was held.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ed N8LBS reminded everyone that severe weather warning siren testing will resume on Saturday 2 March 2013 at 1:00 PM. Our club is the primary siren observer for sirens located in southeast Oakland County. Anyone wishing to help by monitoring a siren operation should contact Ed for an assignment and address of the siren.

Jim K8LFE our inter-club liaison announced the meeting schedule for the amateur radio clubs in our area. L'Ance Creuse ARC- 1st Wednesday @ 7:30 PM, USECA-2nd Monday @ 7:00 PM and General Motors ARC – 3rd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM. Jim also listed the upcoming SWAPS Marshall March 16th , Toledo/TMRA March 17th . See Jim for a complete list of SWAPS in our area.

Jim also announced a Model Train Show Sunday March 3rd at the Macomb Sports & Expo Center, 14500 East 12 mile Road in Warren at 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. Macomb Community College (MCC) open electronic lab has been

rescheduled to every 4th Wednesday from 7:00 – 10:00 PM. The lab is on the MCC South campus in the only building that has a 3 element HF Yagi antenna on top, in room 100.

Jon KE8CU is going to start a CW refresher course in the near future.

HPARC board meeting is Wednesday 27 February 2013 in the teacher's lounge at Hoover Elementary School starting at 7:00 PM.

All club officers were present at the membership meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walt KD8LWC

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## ARROW DAYTON BUS INFORMATION

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Want to visit Dayton this year but don't like driving 3-1/2 hours each way? Once again the ARROW club is sponsoring a bus trip from Ann Arbor to the Dayton Hamvention. The bus leaves at 4:30 AM from Pioneer High School, arriving at the Hamvention gate about 8:00 AM. When the Hamvention closes at 5:00 PM, it's back on the bus for the return to Ann Arbor.

The bus trip offers a continental breakfast, plus a chance to nap on the way down and on the return trip. ARROW is offering riders the option to sell their "stuff" at the club's flea market booth. The only obligation is an hour volunteering at the booth.

Here are the details. The trip costs \$60 through the end of March, and \$65 if ordered later. Tickets must be bought in advance. Each rider must also purchase Hamvention admission separately. Pioneer High School is located at 601 W. Stadium Blvd. Allow an hour travel time from Hazel Park via M-14 or I-94, plus time to check in. There's plenty of parking at the school.

Full information is at <http://www.w8pgw.org/activities/dayton-bus-trip/>, including ordering instructions. Contact Sam Spiteri KD8QES at [activities@W8PGW.org](mailto:activities@W8PGW.org) or 734-369-4731 with any questions.



## THE \$3 DX QSL?

By Wes Plouff AC8JF

Getting a paper QSL from a DX station can be an expensive proposition. U.S. international stamps now cost \$1.10. It's common courtesy to send the DX station two "green stamps" – dollar bills – for return postage. The reasoning goes that a desirable DX station may get many hundreds of QSL requests every year, adding up to quite a financial burden.

Now that International Reply Coupons (IRCs) are no longer on sale, the DXer has two choices: invest three bucks for a direct exchange, or wait more than a year for QSLs to make the trip through the bureau system. No wonder Logbook of the World and eQSL are growing.

Now some DX operators are asking for \$3 return postage. I wondered if foreign hams were being greedy. It turns out they are not.

Every country sets its own international postage rates, but there is a very wide range. Many countries, mostly poor nations, charge well under a dollar to send a letter to the USA. Generally, the richer European nations charge between \$1 and \$2, but postage is rising everywhere.

I've found hams' individual QRZ.com pages to be pretty honest about postage costs. As of March 2013, here are the most expensive nations.

**About \$2:** Ecuador, Great Britain, New Zealand.

**Send \$3:** Argentina, Australia, Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Italy, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Norway, Peru, San Marino, Switzerland, Vatican City. (Highest are Italy, Norway and Peru.)

**Send \$4:** Colombia, Paraguay, Papua New Guinea.

**Iran:** \$6.15 airmail, \$3.69 surface delivery.

When in doubt it's best to check the DX nation's postal authority for rates to the USA, then decide how much to send with an outgoing QSL. Many countries offer postal web sites in English, and services like Google Translate can help. Look for letter rates to the USA or North America.

There are two good places to look on the Internet for answers. <http://www.postage.ch/> and <http://www.k4hb.com/postage.html> have rate lists from many nations to the USA. In the end, though, it's up to the DX operator to decide how to respond.

## AROUND TOWN

### HPARC Buddy Breakfast every Saturday @ 9 AM (or so)

Jimi's Restaurant, 714 South Washington Ave, Royal Oak (across from OCC). 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 test on special day, Wednesday, April 10. See article on page 3.

### 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.

## H A M F E S T S

### 3/16/2013 Marshall Crossroads Hamfest 8-12

15325 W. Michigan Avenue, Marshall, MI  
(I-94 to I-69 south, then 1st exit to Michigan Ave west)  
<http://www.w8df.com/hamfest/hamfest2013.pdf>  
Talk-In: 146.660 (PL 94.8)

### 3/17/2013 Toledo (Perrysburg) Hamfest 8-2

Owens CC Activity Center, 30335 Oregon Rd, Perrysburg  
(I-75 to Exit 198, east on Wales Rd, south on Oregon)  
<http://www.tmrahamradio.org/hamfest.php>  
Talk-In: 147.270 (PL 103.5)

### 3/30/2013 ARGYL Hamfest, Lowell 8-12

Lowell HS, 11700 Vergennes St, Lowell, MI  
<http://www.argyl.org/hamfest.html>  
Talk-In: 146.620, 145.270 (both PL 94.8)

### Upcoming:

4/20 Milford, MI  
5/17-19 Dayton Hamvention

## HPARC ZERO BEAT

## Mark Your Calendar

## NEXT MEETING

## NEXT MEETING

The map displays the following streets and landmarks:

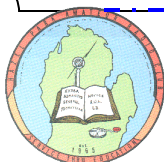
- Streets:** W Mapledale Ave, W Garfield Ave, W Browning Ave, W Morehouse Ave, W Annabelle Ave, Hamata Ave, W Sonoma Ave, Orchard Ave, E 9 Mile Rd, E Garfield Ave, E Annabelle Ave, Steve Fraser Blvd, E Tucker St, E Feilker Ave, E Garfield Ave, E Annabelle Ave, E Tucker St, E Feilker Ave, E Garfield Ave, E Annabelle Ave, E Tucker St, E Feilker Ave, E Garfield Ave, E Annabelle Ave, E Tucker St, E Feilker Ave.
- Landmarks:** Green Acres Park, Tuski Memorial Park, Hamata Ave, W Sonoma Ave, Orchard Ave, E 9 Mile Rd, E Garfield Ave, E Annabelle Ave, E Tucker St, E Feilker Ave, E Garfield Ave, E Annabelle Ave, E Tucker St, E Feilker Ave.
- Other:** A blue 'N' arrow points north. A blue pin with a '3' is located near Green Acres Park, and a blue pin with a '2' is located near Tuski Memorial Park.

**1 Meeting      2 Swap      3 Picnic**

## PLACE

**Hoover Elementary School**  
**23720 Hoover Ave.**  
**Hazel Park 48030**

**www.hparc.org**



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



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