

# The Zero Beat

## THIS MEETING

**Banquet**  
**June 12, 2013**  
**7:30 P.M.**  
 (socializing begins at 7)  
**De Carlo's Banquet Center**

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## NEW OFFICERS

Results are in from the club election. New officers for the 2012-13 year are:

**President:** William Ketel N8QVS  
**1st Vice Pres:** Jim Poehlman K8ABZ  
**2nd Vice Pres:** Larry Koziel K8MU  
**Secretary:** Walt Carter KD8LWC  
**Parliamentarian:** Ed Walton N8LBS  
**Director:** Jerry Begel W9NPI  
**Treasurer:** Robert Lauer KD8AMP

## PRESIDENT'S QRM

Greetings to all, and thanks for accepting me as club president for another year. I will give it my best once again.

The installation of officers banquet will be at the same venue as last year, and there are still tickets available, but you will need to contact Rey Bora and either get him the money or else buy the tickets at a Saturday breakfast at Jimi's in Royal Oak. The banquet will be Wednesday, June 12.

FIELD DAY IS COMING! It is June 22 and 23, and it is a club activity that I enjoy a lot. Once again we have reserved Camp Haze Woods, which is a very nice place to go and "play radio" for two days. John, AA8UU is the field day chairman again, and he will undoubtedly do a good job again this year. It looks like there will be room for at least 14 operators the

whole time, so when you show up you should be able to operate. Contact John to find open times. Besides operating we also talk a lot and enjoy the place.

Just like other years we will be meeting at the Big Boy restaurant that is across I-75 from the Great Lakes Crossing mall at 8 AM.

One difference this year is that the meals will be handled by Bernie, W8NBC, who is quite experienced in the restaurant business. It may be that I will have a lot more time for making contacts this year.

The DART PICNIC and social gathering is scheduled for August 14, 2013. Once again we have shelter #1, the same as we had last year, Green Acres Park, 620 W. Woodward Heights Ave., Hazel Park, Mi. We have exclusive use from 5PM until closing time, so there is no need to rush the meal. The

(Continued on page 2)

**W8HP HPARC FIELD DAY**  
**6/22-23, CAMP HAZEL WOODS**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

## OFFICERS

- **President:** Bill Ketel  
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Ed Walton N8LBS  
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## 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  
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- **VUCC/WAS Awards Card Checker:** Sean Fleming  
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Assist Ed Walton N8LBS
- **Meeting Coffee:**  
Bernie Hildebrand W8NBC
- **Donuts:** Rey Bora W8REY
- **Sunday Net:** Bill Ketel  
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- **Banquet:** Rey Bora W8REY  
[rey62@aol.com](mailto:rey62@aol.com)
- **Field Day Chair:**  
John Teagardin, AA8UU  
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- **HPARC Official Cook:**  
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Swap:** Swap Chair  
Bernie Hildebrand W8NBC  
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- **Holiday Party:** The Board
- **Webmaster:**  
Larry Koziel K8MU  
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- **Oak Apple Run Royal Oak:**  
Mike WD8S
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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)

club will provide the hotdogs, hamburgers and chicken, the buns, plates, napkins, and silverware, (plastic-ware, actually), and the beverages. Everything else is potluck. Be sure to label your containers and serving utensils so that you can get them back after we are done.

Last year a few brought QRP radios and we had a few QSOs prior to the meal, and a few more after. We can do that again this year. There may be some AC line power available, some years it is and some years not. This is a great chance to gather for fun, food, and fellowship, after not seeing folks since field day. We can enjoy visiting with those who we only get to see at meetings or just speak with over the air. I look forward to seeing everybody there.

Directions to Green Acres Park: Green Acres is on the north side of Woodward Heights (9 ½ mile), west of I-75 and in the shadow of the WOMC-FM tower. (Old DART site). Enter the parking lot from the cross street on the eastern edge of the park, and only park in the parking lot, to avoid parking tickets. I was warned about this when I made the reservation.

Non-Ham activities: At the May board meeting it was pointed out that some folks also do other things besides amateur radio, and that there may be a few different things that club members would enjoy doing together. If you have any ideas about activities that YOU would enjoy, contact Rey Bora, who is working on this project, and let him know what you think.

REMEMBER SEPTEMBER! The first meeting of the new club year will be on the second Wednesday of September at Hoover elementary school, in the gym, social gathering starting at 7PM and call to order at 7:30PM.

73 until the banquet, unless you are coming to breakfast at Jimi's,

William Ketel, N8QVS

## Extra License Class Postponed

Our classroom venue, at the Southfield Emergency Operations Center, has been closed to the public, so this summer's Extra study class has been postponed until a new classroom is found. Watch your e-mail for updates.

## 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.

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### 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

## R E P E A T E R C O M M I T T E E R E P O R T

I know it seems we are not doing anything, but things are (slowly) moving along in the background. We have everything we need in place to raise the Yagi at the East remote site – we just need to schedule a day to do it. We want Bob WB8ATZ to lead this project, and have to coordinate with his schedule. I'd like to get it done before Field day, but that's coming up fast!

John AA8UU and I are looking into a used service monitor, but don't have any info to report right now. I'd like the club to have one, but it would have to be something we get at a good price.

We will be buying the Diamond UHF Antenna to replace Murray's temporary/loaned one at the main site. This isn't the main transmit/receive antenna, only the one used to receive the signals from the remote sites. As such, I don't think it needs to as high quality (or cost) of the main. I'd like to wait until we adjust the Yagi at the East site so we can determine what is the real issue. If we make 2 changes at once, it makes it harder to figure out what the real problem was.

Another issue is the cost of the ATT phone line for the main site, used for control/override of the system. I'm looking into alternatives to this phone line, and would like to get DSL or some type of internet service up there. This would allow us to monitor the audio in and out of the system without having to make a trip there, simplifying troubleshooting, and allowing for a future upgrade to IRLP or Echolink.

That's all for now – please let me know your comments or suggestions!

Tony N8VR





## C Q D X

**VY0 Nunavut** — VY0/VE3VID David will be operating from Igloodik Island, 69° north in Canada, until 4/15. 20 meters RTTY and SSB only. QSL via home call.

**KH0 Mariana Is** — KH0N Tony will be active from Saipan until 6/17 on all HF bands. QSL via JA6CNL.

**A5 Bhutan** — A52W Yuki will be active in his spare time until 6/19, mostly on SSB. QSL via JH1NBN.

**D4 Cape Verde Is** — D44TWO Harald will be active from Aso Tiago Is until 6/20. QSL via MOOXO.

**J6 St. Lucia** — J68HZ Bill will be active until 6/22 on 160-6 meters, all modes. QSL via K9HZ.

**FS St. Martin** — FS/K9EL John will be active until 6/28 on 80-6 meters. He's one of the hams interviewed on page 6 of this issue. QSL via home call.

**VP2V British Virgin Is** — VP2V/W9DR Dave will be active 6/14-6/28 on 50.115 MHz SSB and .1156 CW, as well as running a beacon on that frequency. QSL via home call.

**H44 Solomon Islands** — H44PA Greg is active from Guadalcanal until 6/30, mostly CW and digital. QSL via VK1AI.

**H44 Solomon Islands** — H44IOTA, a 10-person international DXpedition, will be traveling from island to island throughout June. In July, they will operate as H40IOTA from various locations in Temotu Province. See [h44iota.com](http://h44iota.com).

**HL South Korea** — DS4DRE/4 Kang will be active from Hajo Is until the end of the year, operating SSB and CW on 80-10 meters. QSL via home call.

**PJ4 Bonaire** — PJ4D Armin will be active 6/22-7/10 on 80-10 meters SSB. QSL via DL1DI.

**VQ9 Chagos Is** — VQ9JC Jim will be active from Diego Garcia Is 6/22-7/7 "Field Day style." Try him 1200-1600Z. QSL via ND9M.

**YB Indonesia** — A team of operators will be active as YEOEDAM 6/25-6/28 on Damar Besar Is. QSL via YBOJZS.

**PJ2 Curacao** — PJ2/ON6DX Wim will be active 6/28-7/7 on SSB and digital modes. QSL via home call.

**TU Cote D'Ivoire** — TU5DF Dim will be active late June to October mainly on CW on 40-6 meters. QSL via F5SWB.

**5R Madagascar** — 5R8NE Flavio will operate holiday style from Nosy Be Is. 7/16-7/30 on 40-10 meters SSB. QSL via IW2NEF.

**OX Greenland** — OX3LX Bo will be active from Tasillaq Is 6/20-7/1. QSL information on his QRZ.com page.

**40 Montenegro** — 40/UA3RF Alex and 40/RK3RB Nick will operate 7/21-8/2. QSL via home calls.

**MJ Jersey** — MJ/OT9Z, with 3 operators, will be active 8/2-8/9. QSL via ON8ZL.

**FR Reunion Is** — T01PF, with a group of French operators, will be active 8/3-4. QSL via FR1GZ.

**Antarctica** — These stations are active through December:

- RI1ANP Progress Station
- VK0JJJ Mawson Station
- ZS7V SANAE IV Station

## CONTEST CORNER

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

## June 2013

8-9 VK Shires Contest  
 8-9 Portugal Day Contest  
 8-9 GACW WWSA CW DX Contest  
[8-10 ARRL June VHF Contest](#)  
[15 Kid's Day Contest](#)  
 15-16 All Asian DX Contest, CW  
 15-16 West Virginia QSO Party  
 20 RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB  
 22-23 Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest  
 22-23 His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB  
 22-23 Marconi Memorial HF Contest  
[22-23 ARRL Field Day](#)

## July 2013

1 RAC Canada Day Contest  
 1-7 10-10 Int. Spirit of 76 QSO Party  
 6-7 Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest  
 6-7 DL-DX RTTY Contest  
 6-7 Original QRP Contest  
 7 DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest  
[13-14 IARU HF World Championship](#)  
 20-21 DMC RTTY Contest  
 20-21 North American QSO Party, RTTY  
 20-21 CQ Worldwide VHF Contest  
[27-28 RSGB IOTA Contest](#)

## August 2013

3 European HF Championship  
 3 TARA Grid Dip Shindig  
 3-4 10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB  
[3-4 North American QSO Party, CW](#)  
[3-4 ARRL August UHF Contest](#)  
 10-11 WAE DX Contest, CW  
 10-11 Maryland-DC QSO Party  
 17-18 SARTG WW RTTY Contest  
[17-18 North American QSO Party, SSB](#)  
[18 ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY](#)  
 24-25 Hawaii QSO Party  
 24-25 Ohio QSO Party  
 24-25 SCC RTTY Championship  
 31-1 YO DX HF Contest

## About the RSGB Islands On The Air (IOTA) Contest

The IOTA Contest is a great excuse to work island stations near and far. Of course, large numbers of Europeans live on islands, but dozens of small islands, some of them fairly rare DXCC entities, are activated for the contest. Since many stations are right on salt water, chances are good even a casual contester will work some rare ones.

## FIELD DAY—JUNE 22-23

By John Teagardin AA8UU

We meet for breakfast around 8 a.m. at Big Boy on Baldwin Rd. near Great Lakes Crossing on North I-75.

Then we continue on to the Field Day site. Setup begins at 10 a.m. sharp. We need all the time we can to get our stations on the air by 2 p.m. The contest runs for 24 hours, until 2 p.m. Sunday.

We plan to have lots of rigs in action. 5 - HF stations, and 1 VHF station, running phone, CW, and digital. The "GOTA" station is set aside for new hams. We have a schedule for operating the other station, but there's always a lot of time open for walk-ins.

Even if you are bashful, and don't operate, there's lots of equipment to set up and tear down. We usually start teardown after lunch on Sunday. This is great fun for the techies.

This year will be a little different. We'll have only one HF beam but more dipoles. We'll also have 6 and 2 meter Yagis.

Get free operator Elmering, coaching for beginners, Watch Mike, WD8S, in action, or Gerry the CW master. Or maybe you would like to just log for awhile. You can do that too! The excitement of contesting is everywhere at the Field Day site.

Here's the on the air exchange:

CQ this is W8HP

WE ARE 5A MI, 5A MI QSL?

then acknowledge the other station's report

See <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator> to locate our campsite on Google Maps, roll over the marker W8HP. For more information about field day you can go to <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>. The entire campsite is rented out by the club for the weekend. This includes several cabins in which we set up our stations. A mess hall gathering room with restrooms is also on site. Bernie K8NBC and Barb WD8SAA will be doing the cooking, including some barbecue. Of course there are bunks for sleeping for those of us that need sleep.

**What:** Amateur Radio Field Day

**Where:** Camp Hazel Woods  
6379 Holdridge Rd  
Holly, MI 48442

**When:** Saturday 8 AM—Breakfast at Big Boy, Auburn Hills  
Saturday 10 AM—Begin setup  
Saturday 2 PM—Field Day contest runs 24 hours to...  
Sunday 2 PM—Teardown begins  
Sunday 5 PM—Teardown complete

### DIRECTIONS

*About 45 miles and 50 minutes from Hazel Park.*

1. Take I-75 north about 40 miles.
2. (Breakfast is at Baldwin Rd North, exit 84A, about halfway. Turn right at end of exit ramp; look to your left for the Big Boy sign. It's very close to the freeway)
3. Exit at Grange Hall Rd, exit 101, then turn right.
4. Drive 1 mile east to Dixie Highway, then turn left.
5. Drive 1.5 miles north on Dixie Highway. Pass Groveland Oaks Park on the right and Mt. Holly ski area on the left.
6. About 1/4 mile past the Mt. Holly entrance, look for Holdridge Rd. on the left. This is a gravel road with a convenience store at the corner. Turn left.
7. Camp Hazel Woods is 3/4 mile down Holdridge Rd. on the right.



## HOW TO TAKE A DX HOLIDAY

*Edited by Wes Plouff AC8JF*

Many of the DX listings in *The Zero Beat* say the operator is running "holiday style." This means that he is on the air part time during a regular vacation. This is a lot more informal than the big DXpeditions with multiple operators and skid loads full of equipment. I've wondered what it takes to bring amateur radio along on holiday, so I interviewed five recent travelers by e-mail. Here are their answers, very diverse, edited for length.

**Q: Where was the DX holiday you're writing about?**

**K8AQM, Ted Rachwal** – In the Grand Cayman Islands [as ZF2TA] during the last week of the SKCC K3Y event for January 2013.

**K9EL, John Sweeney** – The island of Saint Martin in the French West Indies [as FS/K9EL]. Saint Martin (French) and Sint Maarten (Dutch) share the island geographically approximately 50/50. [Ed: K9EL makes regular trips to Saint Martin.]

**VA3QSL, Jeff Richardson** – My most recent DX holiday was to the island of Barbados [as 8P9HI].

**AC8W, Stan Arnett** – Placencia, Belize [as V31AC, along with N8LJ/V31LJ and KB8TXZ/V31VJ].

**K8PGJ, Pete Gladysz** – The Cayman Islands [as ZF2PG], located about 120 miles south of Cuba in the Caribbean.

**Q: How many days long was your trip, and how many days were you on the air?**

**K8AQM** – The entire trip to the Caymans was seven days. This was a planned "wife included" week.

**K9EL** – My November trips average 11 days and my June trips average 18 days. I am on the air as soon as I can get the antennas erected. That usually takes about 4 hours (and 4 hours for disassembly and packing).

**VA3QSL** – The trip was for 8 days and I was on the air 7 days.

**AC8W** – Feb. 27 to Mar. 6, 2013. [We were] on the air Mar. 1 thru 5.

**K8PGJ** – The scheduled trip was 8 days. I planned to be on the air the 3 days prior to the January NAQP contest and then do the contest, which for a single operator is 10 hours long.

**Q: How did you choose a place to visit?**

**K8AQM** – We wanted somewhere that was much warmer



*Antennas at ZF2PG. Photo courtesy K8PGJ*

than Michigan in January, someplace that was just a short distance away and for me, an easily obtained license.

**K9EL** – Saint Martin is a wonderful vacation location with plenty of things for the family to do while the ham is on the air.

**VA3QSL** – Barbados was a day stop on a weeklong cruise a few years ago. There were several islands that made an impression on my wife and me. We have since gone back to those islands for 1 to 2 week stays and I have been able to operate from all of them.

**AC8W** – Internet sites and referrals from others who had visited.

**K8PGJ** – We have vacationed there now 12 times, mostly with the kids, over the past 25 years. Weather conditions are always glorious except when a hurricane is in the area. It is one of the best places to Scuba dive in the world and I did dive 3 days prior to operating the radio.

**Q: How did you find a ham-friendly place to stay?**

**K8AQM** – I really don't worry about that. I can find some way to put up an antenna even if it's just a random wire. Besides, it's always easier to get forgiveness than permission.

**K9EL** – I simply checked with the rental agent to make sure there were no issues with antennas. Generally any

*(Continued on page 7)*



## DX HOLIDAY CONT'D

antennas are allowed as long as no permanent attachments are made to buildings or structures and no plants are disturbed.

VA3QSL – We use a web site called “Vacation Rent by Owner” or VRBO. I found the Barbados house we rented after going through about 100 listings. It was right on an ocean cliff with a fantastic view, and the price was reasonable. It was also cheaper than one occasionally listed in QST. I did not know it was 'ham friendly' when we booked it. The Barbados licence application requests that you include a note of approval from the owner of the property stating that you can erect antennas. So I simply e-mailed the owner and asked them. They were very supportive and familiar with amateur radio.

AC8W – Same as [when choosing a destination], but in this case to original rental with ham shack fell through at the last minute. A helpful real estate agent found an alternate site (without equipment and antennas).

K8PGJ – There are very few hams remaining on the island but there is a club station with 4 towers that is generally booked out long in advance. [I was able to] borrow it. The club station is at a ham's house and you need to find accommodations about 10 miles away in Georgetown. There are many large and small resorts to choose from.

**Q: How far in advance did you start planning your trip?**

K8AQM – We planned the trip in October and I started the licensing then too.

K9EL - Planning is usually started immediately after the last one.

VA3QSL – We started planning this trip around October for a February arrival. However, a family illness postponed the trip until April.

AC8W – About a year of talking and looking, six months for serious booking.

K8PGJ – You need to plan your trip about 4 months in advance, securing the station availability first, [then] airline seats.

**Q: How much did the amateur radio aspect add to the cost of your trip?**

K8AQM – The only cost outside of my already-owned equipment was \$140. That was for my license and the import duty fee on my equipment.

K9EL - The largest cost is the HF transceiver. The main

use for my IC7000 is for DX trips. So, start off with \$1300. Then add power supply, tuner, keyer, paddle and digital interface for about \$450. Antennas, supports plus coax, connectors and tools came close to \$1,000.

VA3QSL – Adding Amateur Radio to my trip added just the licence fee, which was 30 Barbados dollars equivalent to \$15 US. All the equipment I had from previous trips.

AC8W – Since we brought our own rigs and antennas, the only added cost was the license – about \$50 US.



*The antenna in V31 Belize. Photo courtesy AC8W*

**Q: How much equipment did you bring, and how much did it weigh?**

K8AQM – I took an Elecraft K2/100 transceiver, Mighty Light MFJ power supply, headphones, 30m dipole made of #20 wire, 100 feet of RG-176 micro coax, my Sigma V vertical dipole, a straight key and paddle on the same base and my laptop for email plus logging.

K9EL - The golf case weighs close to 70 pounds and includes antennas, fiberglass 32' mast, wire, several hundred feet of RG8X cable, tape, tools, and clamps. The carry-on case includes the radio, power supply, tuner and keyer – about 10 pounds. Checked baggage includes power cables, paddle, headphones, etc.

VA3QSL – I try to travel light. My Icom 7000 easily goes in my carry on. The Alinco DM-330V power supply is also in my carry on. I try to use a window line type dipole as it is lighter than coax. A small 4:1 balun and a short piece of RG-58 completes the package. In Barbados I was able to take an MFJ 30 ft. telescoping fiberglass mast in carry

*(Continued on page 8)*

## MORE DX HOLIDAY



*Ted ZF2TA in the holiday (CW-only) shack.*

*Photo courtesy K8AQM.*

on and a G5RV [dipole] in my checked baggage, for an inverted vee antenna. The rig, power supply and line cord in an aluminum box weighed less than 15 lbs. I used a lightweight Sony headset, Whiterook keyer and a small Toshiba Netbook to log. So there were roughly 20 lbs. in my carry on including the mast and 10 lbs. in my checked baggage.

AC8W – Three of us brought a radio each (Elecraft K-3 and two Elecraft K-2), about 500' of RG8X coax, a vertical and two G5RV dipoles, laptops, tuners, tools, assorted connectors and cables for the rigs. One golf case carried fiberglass push up masts and the vertical. All suitcases, golf bag and carry-on luggage weighed less than fifty pounds [each].

K8PGJ – I have a radio travel kit which has weighed up to 38 pounds that is housed in a Pelican 1650 case. It contains an Icom 7000, antenna tuner, power supply, headset, foot switch, etc. and has contained antennas and coax for other adventures. This kit fits in an airplane overhead compartment. Remember this location has 4 towers so the antenna hardware was left behind for this trip.

**Q: Did you test your holiday station before starting the vacation?**

K8AQM - Nope, the rig was pulled from my station and the antenna(s), coax and headphones/key are always

packed in my DX bag.

K9EL - Yes – very, very important. Everything was hooked up and tested as it would be used in Saint Martin.

VA3QSL – Yes, my station components are all checked before the trip. It is best to assemble everything on a table then pack it. The antenna and window line were inspected for possible weak joints.

AC8W – Yes. We met and set up each station, checked laptop connectivity and assured the latest version of N1MM software was on each computer. We inventoried all items.

K8PGJ – Prior to leaving, the station was tested along with the logging software to be utilized on my portable PC. I was on the air within 20 minutes of arriving at the station, but I had been there before and knew where all the control points where.

**Q: How did you pack your equipment?**

K8AQM - Everything but the Sigma V antenna was in my carry-on bag. The Sigma breaks down to a small bundle that fits in my suitcase with a very small footprint.

K9EL - The Golf Case is hard shell, so no special packing was required for the antennas, mast and cable. The carry-on equipment was wrapped in swimsuit, shorts and T-shirts! The cables in the checked bag were not fragile so no particular packing was required.

VA3QSL – My rig and power supply and keyer go into a small, strong padded aluminum box I bought at a ham-fest. Accessories, balun, and antenna go in the checked baggage. It is good to put any fragile items in the middle of your clothes.

AC8W – My complete K-2 station (except for the G5RV) was in a Pelican 1510 hard case – it meets carry-on size requirements. Everything else went as checked luggage, bubble wrapped if needed.

K8PGJ – Other than the Go Kit which was designed around size and minimal weight, a few tools were located in my checked luggage. I also dragged along all my Scuba gear and another suitcase for clothing.

**Q: What did you do to avoid problems with the airline, airport security, Customs, licensing authorities, etc?**

K8AQM - I have traveled regularly with ham radio gear and it's no problem to go through customs/TSA. Answer

*(Continued on page 9)*



## YET MORE DX HOLIDAY

their questions, carry your documents (licenses/import custom forms) and expect to pull everything out of your carry on.

K9EL – Patience, patience, patience. Make sure that everything to be carried is permitted by the airlines. If the airline or the TSA protest, have copies of TSA/Airline documents handy. Ask to talk to a supervisor. Always be super polite and patient. Get to the airport very early as you know your baggage will be inspected.

VA3QSL – I have never had problems with customs. I always carry my ham licence and/or reciprocal licence papers with my passport. Only once, just after 9/11, was I asked to turn on the rig. Fortunately I had the line cord in my carry on, so that is a good idea. They always do a 'sniff' test on the rig for explosive residue but that only takes a few minutes. They will usually ask me what it is, and when I tell them 'ham radio,' I get the usual blank stare.

AC8W – Answer all TSA questions truthfully. We pre-registered the Elecraft rigs with the Belize Telecom, declared them on arrival and had to show the equipment on departure.

K8PGJ – Island paperwork was handled in advance with the Information and Communication Technology Authority. I received a ZF call sign and an import form for communication gear. The process by e-mail took about a week. I received digital copies of all the paperwork, with the paper copies arriving 3 weeks later. To be honest, the Caymans are very tourist friendly and the customs agents never looked at the forms, so they were [just] insurance.

**Q: How did you balance ham radio with normal vacation activities?**

K8AQM - No problem: I operated before my wife got up, after she went to bed and often during the day. XYL is WD8LCH and understands my passion for operating.

K9EL - Best radio conditions in the Caribbean tend to be in the mornings and evenings, so day time is for sightseeing, beach, etc. Make every other day a pool day, so you can be close to the radio where there is a lull in the activity. Make sure the kids play hard all day and go to bed early, so you can stay up late on the radio.

VA3QSL – I try to operate when we would normally be around the accommodations anyway. In the evenings, my XYL likes to sit and read or watch TV. She understands

how much I like to operate, so she leaves me be. If she wants to go shopping during the day, that is also a cue for me to get on the radio, although that has proven to be expensive at times!

AC8W – Our rental was not available the first full day we arrived so we chose that as our "tourist" day and drove to the nearest Mayan archaeological dig site. Most meals except during the ARRL Phone Contest were eaten at a new restaurant each time. Lots of "on the air" time.

K8PGJ – During our last trip, my wife was at a convention and agreed to fly home the day I was running the NAQP contest. I found time earlier in the week to blend our schedules. Once I made the first CQ [though], I was never offered a break, running as many as 8 straight hours pre-contest and 10 hours straight in the seat during the contest.

**Q: What advice would you give to a ham who wants to try his or her own DX holiday?**

K8AQM - "Fortune favors the bold." Don't be afraid of TSA, customs, or foreign licensing. You're not doing anything illegal so just answer questions, smile and thank the people for their efforts to keep you and the other passengers safe.

K9EL – Talk to someone who has done it and been to the school of hard knocks. Practice setting everything up ahead of time in a forest preserve [*Ed: recreation area*] or relative's house, where your normal tool box is not available. Make sure you have copies of all license materials, operating permits, etc. Be prepared to do non-radio activities in case luggage is lost, equipment fails or antennas break in a storm.

VA3QSL – I would suggest researching the DX location for licence requirements. The ARRL has a good webpage for reciprocal operating requirements. Apply well in advance of your trip if possible. Confirm licence fees if you can. The Barbados Telecom website was incorrect and I sent the wrong fee.

Plan for the unexpected - have a plan B for antennas, take extra fuses. Confirm your accommodations will allow ham radio and antennas. In a pinch a rental car could be used with Hamsticks and a light mag mount. Research band plans in advance for the DX country to make sure

*(Continued on page 14)*

## K8AG'S QRP PORTABLE GO KIT

By John Pawlicki, K8AG

Like many, I have been a ham for a long time. Although others have been radioing longer, the largest part of my life has involved with radio and other technologies. I have tried many (probably not most) of what is available to us because we are licensed. I have many, many more failures than successful ventures. Over the years my portable operation has changed and I think improved immensely. My go kit is an expression of my current portable operating preferences right now. Next week, who knows?

### The Radio

My earlier portable stations were not so easily stuffed into a backpack. I have had many mobile rigs and odd contraptions, tuners, wires and such all wired up to hopefully operate from a portable location. I have learned a lot assembling and breaking down temporary stations. I realized that every time I set up my stations I always connected the power to the radio to the SWR Bridge to the tuner to the antenna. Then at the end of the day I would disconnect them all and pack them into my boxes. The separate boxes were heavy and all of the connections were prone to intermittent functionality.

An idea formed in my noggin to create not just a radio but a true "rig" that included, at least, the radio, SWR indicator and tuner. I rushed out an order for a Small Wonder Labs SW 20+ QRE monobander. It would provide the radio part of the effort. I quickly assembled and tested the board. Next I fashioned a tuner and a small SWR indicator from the many sources in the Internet.

Everything went into a miniature Lone Ranger tin lunch-box. It worked and all I needed with me was the box, a battery or my car, and some wire for an antenna. Since it was a monobander the tuner was fairly simple.

Thinking I was all that and a bag of chips, I soon realized that Doug Hendricks ([www.grp.com](http://www.grp.com)) had announced a new Portable Field Radio, the PFR-3. Not only did it include the radio, tuner and SWR indication, but batteries, digital tuning and 3 bands - 40, 30 and 20M. OK, so I had to bite.

The PFR-3 is now the center of my go kit.

The PFR-3 (and the PFR-3a current version) is quite a bit larger than the Elecraft KX1. The tuner is manual and requires some practice to get the SWR LED to go out. But it is more rugged than the KX1 and the internal batteries provide 12V for a considerable period. The KX1 has 6 cells providing 9V and considerably less transmit power. It is nice grabbing the rig, not fussing with a power source, and having 5W of nice clean CW.



One of the biggest difficulties that portable operation faces is power. Some "QRP" rigs draw over half of an amp just for receive mode. Both the KX1 and the PFR-3 use far less receive current. Very cool to run on and off all day with a single set of AA batteries.

### The Go Kit

Of course, it's never that simple. Someday I may own a Go Kit that consists of a cell phone sized radio that launches its own antenna and sends and receives flawless CW at whatever speed is appropriate. But for now there are some additional items that I generally need. These include:

- Notepad and pen - I still write some things down when I operate.
- Monofilament line - I just use the spool and manually wrap it up. I have found that somewhat less prone to

*(Continued on page 11)*



## K8AG'S QRP PORTABLE GO KIT, CONT'D

failure and errant weight placements than with a reel.

- A few 1.5oz fishing weights - painted yellow when I get the chance. 1 oz weights don't seem to pull the monofilament down with enough force.
- A GMT (not GPS/Atomic) clock – Having GMT handy without the cell phone can be handy.
- A slingshot – Got to get the wire up onto something.
- A laminated list of my organization membership numbers (QRPARCI, SKCC, NAQCC etc.) – I'm getting older and don't always remember that well.
- My computer mouse converted to a paddle set – These are extremely rugged and not that difficult to use, at least at the speeds I enjoy operating.
- 3M Command hooks – You never know when you might want to string up a wire inside a hotel room or relative's place.
- An AC power supply – When all else fails, plug it in.
- 2 antennas – I carry my two "lazy-up" antennas. One is a monobander for 20M (hold over from the Lone Ranger rig). The other is a 3-band OCF dipole.

### Antennas

The antennas were described in an article I wrote for the Fall 2012 issue of QRP Quarterly ([www.QRPARCI.com](http://www.QRPARCI.com)). The antennas are a bit different and perhaps I will get a chance to describe them here at another time. The best

things about the antennas are:

- They use no radials or other wires lying on the ground. They are a single cable straight up into a tree.
- With a tuner they provide some flexibility as to how they can be set up.

Most importantly they were cheap to make. Less than \$20 for the 3-band version.

I do have a second book bag with a 2AH gel cell and solar panel that I fashioned for extended operation with no AC power. That part is fairly new so I hope to try it some this summer.



Photos in this article courtesy John Pawlicki K8AG

## N8FE VISITS VK-LAND

Had a great time in Oz in March when I visited my son James VK4TJF/K8UP. Among the many things I did, I went with him to the weekly Redcliffe and Districts Amateur Radio club meeting. It was great seeing my old friends again. They made me an honorary club member. However, I'm still introduced as James' Mum Marsha N8FE.

While there I got to participate in John Moyle Day. That is their Field Day. I got there Saturday morning at 10 AM and left about 11 PM. James went back and worked the rest of the night. He got home some time Sunday afternoon. Seems he really enjoyed operating 20 meters CW.

You can watch a video about the club's John Moyle 2013 at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8yaLDKes2Y>  
— Marsha N8FE



[Ed: James appears at the 1:45 mark in the video, and Marsha at 6:45. By the way, the Redcliffe club won its category.]



## DAYTON TIDBITS



At least 18 HPARC members went to the Dayton Hamvention in May. Here's what they saw.

KF8UU - You are in ham radio heaven when you get off the bus. I found everything on my shopping list. There were people there that I talked all over the world on D-Star.

K8GT - While many hams go to the Dayton Hamvention for 1, 2 or 3 days and their experience is concentrated in the Flea Market and inside vendors at Hara Arena, my Hamvention experience encompasses a longer length of time. Spending a lot of time with contesting old friends and meeting new ones, from all over the world.

K8MU - I attended Contest University on Thursday, the day before the official start of the Hamvention. Also in attendance was my friend of more than 35 years, Fred BV1EK/N6FS. He has been living in Taiwan for the last 25. He wanted to attend the reception that the Hamvention committee was hosting for their international visitors Thursday evening, and he invited me to come along. The reception was held at the Kettering Racquet Club on the 29th floor--the top floor--of Dayton's tallest building. It was a wonderful opportunity to socialize with the delegation

from Qatar, and groups of hams from Norway, Belgium, Finland, Puerto Rico, and elsewhere. And the view was terrific.

WD8S - This was my first year a Contest University. What a treat. If you ever wanted any to know or learn about contesting this is the place to be. For \$80 you get breakfast and Lunch, choice of 4 different groups to learn just about anything you need to know about contesting this is for pros or novices.

K8GT - All day Thursday is spent in classes at Contest University, where many of the top contest operators share their knowledge and experience with the rest of us 'little pistol' operators and newbie testers, in all ares of contesting. This was my seventh year at CTU, and it covers operating ethics and techniques, as well as technical topics, both for HF and VHF/UHF contesting. After CTU, I set up the audio and PA for rehearsal for the Spurious Emissions (out of) Band who will play in the Contest Super Suite at the Crowne Plaza Friday evening at 10pm following the Topband (160 meter operators) Dinner.

KE8CU - TYT is coming out with a new Quad Band Transceiver, the 9800, for 2m, 220, 440 and 6m (FM only). Priced somewhere in the \$300 vicinity. (Quality of course may not be great.)

AB8RH - For me the keyers on most of the demonstration rigs were all set to 25 WPM or more, so I found that if I touched the lovely paddles it was sending faster than my fingers could respond at a standing position.

AC8JF - A flea market vendor was selling Czech Army straight keys in their original wax paper wrappings, sent by the fellow who sells them in England. So I got one.



*(Continued on page 13)*

## MORE DAYTON TIDBITS



K8AG - LNR Precision, the folks who bring you the End Fedz portable antennas, were showing their next entry into the portable QRP rig arena. 4 band SSB and looked about 1/3 the size of the Elecraft KX3. External power and 5W. Pair it with a battery and one of their End Fedz and it might be a really great portable QRP squeaker. Gotta find a tree.

KE8CU - Attended a session on SSTV using FreeDV and CODEC2 for both SSTV and Audio. Experimental, yet seems to be a robust method for communication.

*[Ed: Uses about half the bandwidth of SSB.]*

There were less Major Vendors this year at the show... AES was NOT there.

AB8RH - Here and there [in the flea market] were some of the old wonderful HF rigs like the Collins, Viking, Hallicrafters, Drake, and Heath-kits. But few really good cheap rigs common in old hamfests. Parts were kind of pricey but there if you needed them. In fact, some of the 10-15 year old brand name rigs, like Icoms and Kenwoods were selling for more than they were sold at Dayton with the generous discounts and rebates years ago. At least that comforts me that my "stuff" is holding its value.

W8NBC - Barb and I had a good time in Dayton. I enjoyed seeing several of our club members there. Got a chance to see the new Yaesu FT-3000 transceiver; not really impressed. There was a new one there, just announced at the show, the FT-1200; it really didn't impress me either. Guess I am more tuned to the "big" box radios.

AC8JF - I saw several new QRP rigs in the

\$300 range, multiband, some with SSB and data modes. Two fellows from Japan were showing off prototypes of the HandyPSK, a 200 mW PSK31 transceiver no larger than a QSL card and a few inches thick - just add a keyboard and antenna for a complete digital station.

K8GT - Saturday found me back at Hara Arena and the Flea Market, looking for great treasures that I couldn't live without. I didn't buy a new rig or anything big, but did get a bunch of neat accessories for the shack. I also attend-

ed the annual meeting of the Mad River Radio Club, then it was on to the RTTY Contesting forum. After Hara it was back to the Crowne Plaza for the Contesting dinner, where there were many great prizes, of which I won none this year. After dinner it was off to the Kansas City DX Club hospitality suite to take part in the annual CW Pileup copying competition. No, I didn't win there, either, but [I did] bounce around all the contesting and DX hospitality suites visiting with all my friends.

AC8JF - The muggy weather must have done people in. Half the flea market sellers and even some inside exhibitors didn't even bother to set up on Sunday.

AB8RH - My favorite part of the whole hamfest happened after closing when I met with the attendees of the Hamvention from our fellow Spiderweb net at the Outback Restaurant for an eyeball. We had all of our best there, a number from South America, pilots, captains and just regular guys like me.

*(Continued on page 14)*





## DAYTON TIDBITS CONT'D

AB8RH - The WX was great for me having worked in Thailand with humidity and heat. It was at least 10 years since I last took in Dayton Hamvention. I conclude that Amateur Radio is alive and well and be around for a while yet.

K8GT - Sunday, after a final mad dash around the Flea Market and inside vendors for last minute goodies, many gather in Hara Arena for the raffling of the unclaimed door prizes. As soon as the last door prize is won, I leave before the main prize tickets are drawn, so as to avoid the big rush, since you don't have to be present to win them. Catch the bus back to the Salem Mall parking lot, hop in the car and head home, tired but really buzzed from another truly great Hamvention experience.



*All photos for this article courtesy Nozomi Tsuboi AD7TN.*

## DX HOLIDAY - CONT'D

*(Continued from page 9)*

you are operating within the terms of your licence. Check websites for the local amateur radio clubs for any tips that could help you. They are usually very welcoming of visiting hams and you may be able to attend their meetings.

AC8W - Like the Nike Ad said - "Just Do It". Plan ahead, get licensed, operate and have fun. There are lots of rentals with complete stations available so you don't even need to haul equipment. It helps to have an understanding XYL too. Remember, US territories don't require a special license.

K8PGJ - I initially read through DX Holiday [<http://www.dxholiday.com>] for a lot of the basic info and then bumped into an operator on the air that had been there. I would also find out if hams have been to a location and seek their advice on planning a trip. Also, utilize the internet and your personal contacts and try to find local Hams or clubs at your [DX] site, as they will generally help with arrangements and locations. Do not be afraid to ask for help and advice.

I am big on operating and travel and have not spent a lot of time defining. Any DXpedition should get listed in the DX News websites. Post as much info as possible including schedules. Be prepared for a bunch of QSL cards. I had over 200 cards waiting for me when I got home with hundreds more to follow.

**Q: Finally, where can people read more about your trip?**

K8AQM - The story of my trip can be found at:

<http://www.w8tqe.com/pdfs/tickler02.pdf>

VA3QSL - There is some information on QRZ.com on my recent trip. Search for 8P9HI.

K8PGJ - See the ZF2PG entry on QRZ.com.

More information about international licensing can be found on the ARRL web site at

<http://www.arrl.org/international-operating>



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## MEETING MINUTES—MAY 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 visitors: Larry Gauthier K8UT and Bill Lewis W8NN.

Introduction of all attendees were made.

A short request was made for additional volunteers to help with communications and safety at the Oak Apple Run. The run course will be longer this year because of an additional race being added to the program. Mike WD8S requested more volunteers so that our club can once again provide enough communications and safety for the run this year.

Larry K8UT made a presentation about operating from Korea and his visit there. The details were very informative about the military situation in Korea and the communications set up for the allies. Larry also provided an in depth personal account of his visit to the demilitarized zone between South and North Korea. Larry also detailed the complicated procedures he had to go through in order to operate a ham radio from Korea.

Election of officers was held with the following results:

- President Bill N8QVS,
- 1st Vice President Jim K8ABZ,
- 2nd Vice President Larry K8MU,
- Treasurer Bob KD8AMP,
- Secretary Walt KD8LWC,
- Parliamentarian Ed N8LBS and
- Director Jerry W9NPI.

Field Day will be held 22 & 23 June at Camp Hazel Woods in Holly, Michigan.

Banquet update: Rey W8REY sold tickets and announced that he had plenty of tickets remaining. If you still need a ticket contact Rey.

Secretary report: A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the April 2013 membership meeting be approved as published in the club newsletter. The motion passed.

Treasurer Bob KD8AMP presented an abbreviated report that was approved subject to audit.

There were no DX or Contest reports this month.

Other items:

There will NOT be an Amateur Extra class starting 28

June 2013 in Southfield.

There will be a walk-a-thon in Northville on 2 June to support the Parkinson Foundation. Details will be in the Zero Beat Newsletter.

Club members donated \$40.00 to the Hoover Elementary School Kindergarten Library fund.

Club officers present: President Bill N8QVS, 1st Vice President Jim K8ABZ, 2nd Vice President Larry K8MU, Treasurer Bob KD8AMP, Secretary Walt KD8LWC, Parliamentarian ED N8LBS and Director Wes AC8JF.

Respectfully submitted, Walt KD8LWC

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## HEATHKIT SURVEY

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Many of us, ahem, older hams remember building Heathkit electronic kits back when our eyesight was better, along with our dexterity. It was sad to see the company in Benton Harbor diminish and then disappear. There was one recent attempt to revive Heathkit, and now there appears to be another.

News has been traveling by e-mail about an online survey. It's a long survey aimed mostly at hams, put up by someone calling themselves "Heathkit" but giving no information about who they are. Whether or not you take it seriously, it's a fascinating way to spend 20 minutes. Take the survey at [www.heathkit.com/survey/](http://www.heathkit.com/survey/) - maybe some good will come of it.

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## USEFUL SOFTWARE

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From the ARRL *Contest Update* for May 8:  
"Version 5.0 of Jim AD1C's ADIF County Conversion tool is now available. This program takes an ADIF file from a contest logger like WriteLog or N1MM, and converts the contest-specific county abbreviations into real ADIF field values which can be imported into a general-purpose logging program."

This is very useful for someone who wants to keep track of counties worked. Even better, it's free at:

[http://software.ad1c.us/ADIF\\_County/](http://software.ad1c.us/ADIF_County/)

## HAMFESTS

### 6/15/2013 Midland Hamfest 8-12

Salvation Army Bldg, 330 Waldo Ave, Midland, MI  
(about 2 hrs from Hazel Park)

<http://w8kea.org>

Talk-in: 147.00 (PL 103.5)

### 6/16/2013 Monroe Hamfest 7:30 - 1

County Fairgrounds, 3775 S Custer Rd (M-50), Monroe, MI

<http://www.mcrca.org>

Talk-in: 146.72 (PL 100)

### 6/22-23/2013 Field Day

### 7/11-14/2013 ARRL Michigan Section 15th Annual Summer Family Outing

Woodland Conference Center & Campground in Hale, MI

<http://www.SectionOuting.info>

### 7/20/2013 GMARC Summer Trunk Swap 8?-12?

Trinity Lutheran Church, 45160 Van Dyke, Utica, MI  
(1 block north of M-59 in downtown Utica)

<http://www.GMARC.org>

Talk-in: 443.075 (PL 123)

### 7/20/2013 NOARSFEST 8-1

Lorain County CC, 1005 N. Abbe Rd, Elyria, OH 44035

[http://www.noars.net/noars\\_010.htm](http://www.noars.net/noars_010.htm)

Talk-in: 146.70 (PL 110.9)

### 7/21/2013 Van Wert ARC Hamfest 8 - 12?

County Fairgrounds, 1055 S Washington St (US-127), Van Wert, OH 45891

<http://w8fy.org/hamfest.html>

Talk-in: 146.85

### 7/27/2013 CMARC Outdoor Hamfest 8-1

Holt Christian Church, 2424 S. Washington Rd, Lansing

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Website: <http://www.centralmiarc.com>

Talk-in: 145.39 (PL 100)

## 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. Contact Marsha N8FE for assignments.

### 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.

## MORE HAMFESTS

### 8/03/2013 Great Lakes Division Convention 8-2 & Columbus Hamfest

Aladdin Shrine Center, 3850 Stelzer Rd, Columbus, OH  
(about 3.5 hours from Hazel Park)

[www.columbushamfest.com](http://www.columbushamfest.com)

Talk-in: 146.97 (PL 123.0)

### 8/04/2013 Seaway Trunk Swap 9-12

*Free event for buyers and sellers - trunk sales only*

5 Water St, Port Huron, MI — at the St. Clair River  
(Use I-94 exit 271, to Bus-69)

Talk-in 147.30 (PL 100)

### 8/24/2013 SARA Swap & Trunk Sale 8-12

Baker College Autel diesel Institute

1400 South M-52, Owosso, MI 48867

<http://w8qqq.org/saraswap.htm>

Talk-in: 147.02 (PL 100)

JUNE 2013

HPARC ZERO BEAT

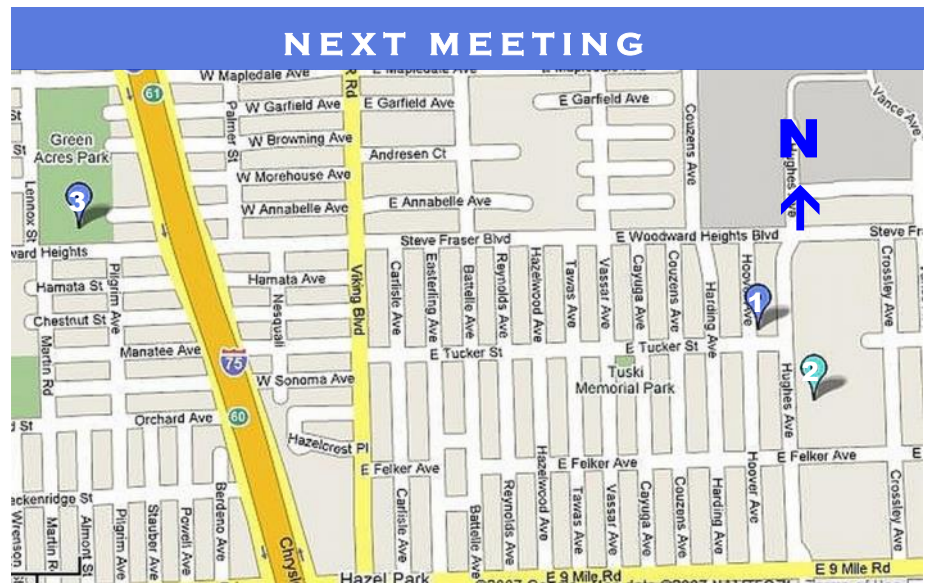
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings are held  
on the second Wednesday  
of the month

- Will resume in September -

### 2013 DATES

August 14 (Picnic)  
Green Acres Park  
Hazel Park, MI



1 Meeting 2 Swap 3 Picnic

We're on the Web

[www.hparc.org](http://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?