



# The Zero Beat

## THIS MEETING

**September 10, 2014**  
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, September 10, 7:30 PM, at Hoover Elementary School, 23720 Hoover Ave, Hazel Park. Gerry Treas W8GT will speak about audio signals and handling. Mics, mixers, speakers, amps, isolation, matching, audio range, S/N ratio, maybe SINAD. Gerry is a retired broadcast engineer, so come hear his expert opinions.

Come early and visit with fellow hams. Everyone is welcome to come to the meeting and bring a friend. The coffee urn will be hot, and donuts will be served at 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

Well, here we are, getting ready to start our 2014-2015 year at HPARC. We have had a successful past year starting with our swap in January. We had a successful banquet thanks to Barb KD8SAA and Rey W8REY. I wasn't able to be here for Field Day, but by all accounts it was a good Field Day. Then came the picnic and it was a good one even though there was an outpouring of the heavens 2 days before. A nice number of people there even with the roundabout way some had to go to get there. I had a great time cooking for the picnic.

My idea is to try to build our membership throughout the year. I am open to any and all ideas that we can possibly use to do this. We have a great club and we need to share our club with more hams. More activity is needed to show that we are more than just a meeting once a month. I have started getting my

feet wet making contacts during QSO parties using QRP and found that I have gotten more response that way. If you have a transceiver that can be turned down to 5 watts or less, try using it. If you have ideas to help our club, you can contact me at the email address on the roster.

Bill, N8QVS's idea that we get more technical info and etc. at our meetings might be helpful in activating some of our new, younger members.

Wishing all members good luck throughout the year.

73 Bernie W8NBC

## OFFICERS

- **President:** Bernie Hildebrand W8NBC  
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## VOLUNTEERS

- **Technical Coordinator & W8HP Trustee :**  
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- **W8JXU Trustee:**  
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Education/VE Testing:**  
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- **Meeting Coffee:**  
Bernie Hildebrand W8NBC
- **Donuts:** Rey Bora W8REY
- **Sunday Net:** Bill Ketel N8QVS 248-544-2452  
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- **Field Day Chair:**  
John Teagardin, AA8UU  
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- **HPARC Official Cook:**  
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Swap:** Swap Chair  
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- **Holiday Party:** The Board
- **Webmaster:** Larry Koziel K8MU [k8mu@amsat.org](mailto:k8mu@amsat.org)
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Mike WD8S
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## FROM THE EDITOR

The 2013-14 club year saw the Zero Beat falter, with issues late or missing altogether. Your editor takes full responsibility for these problems. I have been very busy at work for more than a year, and other things have gotten in the way of sending out the newsletter in timely fashion. This fall I am taking steps to get back on track. These actions are forcing me to retire in a few months, hi hi. More seriously, I am putting effort into planning and getting the listings articles done farther in advance. With luck these steps will smooth out the newsletter schedule.

One way you, the members, can help is to let the editor know when the *Zero Beat* doesn't arrive in your e-mail during the first week of the month. Because of the huge amount of spam e-mail, most internet services have installed spam filters to prevent fake and malicious e-mails from reaching their customers. Two nasty kinds of filtering use blacklisting and "whitelisting." These block mail from entire address domains – the part of the address after the @ sign – including mail from perfectly good addresses like the club's. Nobody at an ISP is willing to take responsibility for blocking legitimate e-mail.

Spam blocking has hit HPARC members in the past couple of years, even though the Gmail address used by the club is 100% legitimate. Your editor will be happy to send copies of the *Zero Beat* from his personal e-mail account if it doesn't come through the usual way. But you have to let me know when there are problems.

Another way you can help the editor is by contributing material to the *Zero Beat*. You don't have to be a talented writer. What I'm looking for are stories about interesting things club members are doing. Did you make an unusual contact on the air, put up a great new antenna, operate portable from a lush vacation spot? Did you score high in a contest, build something for your station, explore a new operating mode, or figure out how to get your CW speed up where you wanted it? These are all good topics for the newsletter. So don't be afraid to brag a bit to the other members, or give them the benefit of your experience.

So please contact the editor for any of the reasons I've outlined. Send e-mail to [ac8jf@arrl.net](mailto:ac8jf@arrl.net), or phone me at the number in the club roster.

73 de Wes Plouff AC8JF

## ANNOUNCING FALL LICENSING COURSES

The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will host amateur radio licensing courses for all levels at Lawrence Tech this fall:

**Technician – September 8 to December 8**

**General – September 22 to December 22**

**Extra – September 19 to December 19**

Lawrence Technological University is located at 21000 West Ten Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48075, just west of the M-10 Lodge Freeway.

**Technician Class:**

WHEN: Mondays for 14 weeks, September 8 to December 8, 2014, from 7 PM to 9 PM

WHERE: Architecture Building Room A-240

INSTRUCTOR: Gerry Treas, K8GT

COST: FREE Instruction.

License Manual (\$25 cash) available from instructor at first session.

FCC License Exam at Last Session (\$15 fee)

REGISTRATION: Pre-registration is Necessary

Contact: [W9NPI@arrl.net](mailto:W9NPI@arrl.net), or 248-543-2284

**General Class:**

WHEN: Mondays for 14 weeks, September 22 to December 22, 2014, from 7 PM to 9 PM

WHERE: Engineering Building Room E-26

INSTRUCTOR: Wallace Murray, KE8HR

and Marsha Fleming, N8FE

COST: FREE Instruction.

License Manual (\$25 cash) available from instructors at first session.

FCC License Exam at Last Session (\$15 fee)

REGISTRATION: Due to limited class size, Pre-registration is Necessary, by September 15, 2013

Prerequisite: Technician Class Amateur Radio License, or CSCE showing Element 2 exam credit.

Contact the Instructor: Wallace Murray, 248-685-8485 or email [KE8HR@arrl.net](mailto:KE8HR@arrl.net)

**Extra Class:**

WHEN: Fridays for 14 weeks, from September 19 to December 19, 2014, from 7 PM to 9 PM

WHERE: Engineering Building Room E-212

INSTRUCTOR: Ron Miotke, WD8MNX

COST: FREE Instruction.

License Manual (\$25 cash), available from instructor at first session.

FCC License Exam at Last Session (\$15 fee)

REGISTRATION: Pre-registration is Necessary

Contact: [WD8MNX@arrl.net](mailto:WD8MNX@arrl.net), or 248-491-5848

## AMATEUR RADIO LEGISLATIVE NEWS

In June, two congressmen introduced HR 4969, the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill would direct the FCC to extend the PRB-1 “reasonable accommodation” provisions for amateur radio antennas to include all types of land-use regulation, including deed restrictions and restrictive covenants. This means that hams living in “planned communities” could not be completely blocked from erecting outdoor antennas. Instead, private homeowner regulations and agreements would have to be reasonable in their restrictions.

HR 4969 has gathered 27 cosponsors so far, including Michigan Reps. Tim Walberg and Dan Benishek. The ARRL has mounted a big push to have amateurs contact their

congressmen in support of the bill. ARRL is asking members to be polite and mention talking points in their letters, and to send them via the ARRL, not directly to Congressional offices. It is not known whether the bill will go very far in the short time left in the 113th Congress.

See: <http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969>

In Michigan, SB 493, which would direct local zoning authorities to make reasonable provisions for amateur radio antennas up to 90 feet tall, was introduced in September 2013 by State Sens. Rick Jones and David Robertson. Since then it has sat in committee with no hearings scheduled. With 20-odd days left in the Legislative session this year, Michigan hams may have to wait for the new Legislature to take action in 2015.

## 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.arpsc.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.

## AROUND TOWN

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

Jimi's Restaurant, 714 South Washington Ave, Royal Oak (across from OCC). Come for the socializing – we're in the back room. Parking: lots of spaces in Jimi's parking lot, and street parking is free until 11 AM.

### Oakland Co. ARPSC Siren Testing, 1st Saturday @ 1 PM

Pre-net on the DART Repeater, 146.640, around 12:30 PM. Contact Marsha N8FE for assignments.

### Macomb Community College Electronic Lab

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

## W1AW PORTABLE SCHEDULE

W1AW is celebrating the ARRL Centennial year by operating portable in all 50 states and many US territories. QSOs count 5 points toward Centennial QSO Party scores.

QSL by LOTW is encouraged. Paper QSLs are available two different ways. Members can opt to have cards sent to them via the QSL Bureau. ARRL headquarters will reply to your QSLs sent with an SASE, up to 5 cards per envelope, though the response may take months. See:  
<http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#QSLs>

### September 2014

- 2 Arizona, Maine
- 3-9 Oregon, Tennessee
- 10-16 Colorado, Texas
- 17-23 Connecticut, North Carolina
- 24-30 Idaho, New Mexico

### October 2014

- 1-6 California, Alaska (/KL7), District of Columbia (/3)

## HPARC BANQUET PHOTOS



## DART PICNIC PHOTOS



Photos by Wes Plouff AC8JF

## REPEATER UPDATE

By Tony Gallucci N8VR

It's taking much longer than I expected, but it's getting closer. Internet Repeater Linking Protocol (IRLP) and Echolink are close to being ready for the DART VHF. John AA8UU has been working hard to get it operational, with Murray KE8UM and myself assisting. The IRLP/ Echolink board itself is working fine and keying up the transmitter, but the S-COM controller isn't passing audio back and forth. We aren't quite sure why, and its taking more time to figure out what's wrong.

Another issue is the voice over IP (VoIP) line we are using to control the system; its not passing DTMF touch tones properly, so as Murray tries to send updated programming to the controller, it fails. As a temporary fix, I've installed a different VoIP interface up at the main site which does pass touch tones properly. I'm working with our service provider to get their interface to work, but I'm not impressed with Nettalk customer service – it stinks!

The bigger issue it points out is the fact that we are still using 1970's technology to run what is becoming a complex system. Although the VHF repeater itself is a relatively modern Motorola Quantar, it's mated to a circa 1980's controller, which is based on even older technology. Now that we have 4 remote receive sites and IRLP/ Echolink, its become apparent we need to update the controller. Our IRLP is running on a Raspberry Pi board, and if you haven't heard about this little computer on a board, you should at least read about it! This link gives you a little background (<http://www.raspberrypi.org/>).

The IRLP has a basic controller built in which allows it to ID, but we aren't using it right now as the Scomm controller has the voter for the remote sites connected to it and is providing the time and voice announcements you hear. I'd like to move to a new controller- whether it's the Raspberry Pi or another-- that allows us control via the Internet vs the current analog modem. Now that we have a network connection at the main site, we can do a lot more than switch the system on and off-we currently can monitor the temperature (it gets hot up in that room where the repeater sits!!) but we can also set up the system to listen to the audio coming from the remote receive sites for troubleshooting purposes, and even stream audio from the repeater onto the HPARC website.

We do need assistance from club members on getting the South remote receive working right. The mast the antennas are attached to was damaged, and needs to be straightened or remounted as the beam is pointed more to the ground than to the main site. I'd like to get a work crew together so we can get this site 100% operational. If you can volunteer to help us, let me ([n8vr@arrl.net](mailto:n8vr@arrl.net)) or one of the club officers know.

This brings up my final point – there's no point in doing any of these improvements if you aren't using the repeater. Now I admit I don't listen to the DART all day, but I do turn it on when I'm in my car and call out. I want to encourage you to get on the DART – either the VHF or the UHF – and throw out your call. And if you hear someone throw out their call, respond – even if you have to tell them you don't have time to talk. We want to keep the DART "the friendliest repeater in town", and it starts with you using it!

Tony Gallucci

## SUNDAY NIGHT NET CHECK-INS

Here are cumulative 2 meter net checkins from June 2014 through August 2014.

KB3EHW	Reuven	10	1 checkin:	
KD8SAA	Barb	10	KC8YRO	Joe
W8NBC	Bernie	10	KD8HTT	Dan
KE8UM	Murray	9	KD8NXH	Augustine
KF8UU	Les	9	KD8SPD	Dan
N8QVS	Bill	9	KD8VGT	Harold
AA8OZ	Paul	8	N8FE	Marsha
N8LBS	Ed	7	N8VR	Tony
KE8UD	Paul	6	WD8YTS	John
N8REL	Bob	6		
W8BHF	Bob	6		
AA8UU	John	4		
K8ABZ	Jim	4		
AB8HI	Jerry	3		
KD8TBC	Lee	3		
KD8UNJ	Robert	2		
KD8YTS	John	2		

## H A M F E S T S

### 09/07/2014 Findlay Hamfest 8-1

Hancock Co Fairgrounds, 1017 E. Sandusky St, Findlay OH

<http://www.w8ft.org>

Talk-In: 147.15 (no PL?)

### 09/13/2014 GRAHamfest 8-1

Home School Bldg, 5625 Burlingame Ave SW, Wyoming

<http://w8dc.org/attachments/2014GRAHamFestFlyer.pdf>

Talk-In: 147.26 (PL 94.8)

### 09/14/2014 Adrian Hamfest 8-1

Lenawee County Fairgrounds, 602 N. Dean St, Adrian

<http://www.w8tqe.com/>

Talk-in 145.37 (PL 85.4)

### 09/28/2014 Cleveland Hamfest 8-2

Cuyahoga County Fairground, 164 Eastland Rd, Berea, OH

<http://www.hac.org>

Talk-In: 146.73 (PL 110.9)

#### Upcoming:

10/26 USECA Hamfest, Madison Heights

## C O N T E S T S

For details visit the WA7BNM Contest Calendar or the ARRL Contest Roundup

#### September 2014

- 1-2 MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint
- 6 Russian Radio RTTY Worldwide Contest
- 6-7 All Asian DX Contest, Phone
- 7-8 Tennessee QSO Party
- 13 FOC QSO Party
- 13-14 WAE DX Contest, SSB
- 13-14 Arkansas QSO Party
- 13-15 ARRL September VHF Contest**
- 20-21 Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW
- 20-21 SRT HF Contest SSB
- 20-21 South Carolina QSO Party
- 20-21 Washington State Salmon Run
- 27-28 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY**
- 27-28 Maine QSO Party
- 27-28 Texas QSO Party

#### October 2014

- 3-5 YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest
- 4 TARA PSK Rumble Contest
- 4-5 Oceania DX Contest, Phone
- 4-5 Russian WW Digital Contest
- 4-5 California QSO Party
- 4-5 New Jersey QSO Party

## C A L I F . Q S O P A R T Y

State QSO Party contests are an easy way to get contest experience and also work the occasional rare county. The California QSO party is a little different, and reportedly the largest QSO party of all. The twist is that for California stations, their home state is just one more multiplier. So, California stations want to work 58 states and Canadian provinces (some lumped together), but don't emphasize the locals. Michigan stations can work all 58 California counties without competing against a home-state advantage. W6 calls are easy to find on all bands as Californians attempt to make QSOs nationwide.

During daytime hours, pointing the tribander to the west is all the contest strategy that's needed.

California QSO Party hours are October 4, 1200Z to October 5, 2200Z. Conveniently, in Hazel Park that's noon Saturday to 6 PM Sunday. The exchange is a serial number plus "Michigan" for HPARC members, and serial number

## R O U T E 6 6 E V E N T

The Citrus Belt ARC is sponsoring the "Route 66 on the Air" special event September 6 to 14. Callsigns W6A through W6U will be active along historic U.S. Highway 66 from end to end, Santa Monica, California to Chicago, Illinois. QSLs are available from individual clubs as long as an SASE is provided, and certificates and decals can be obtained after working at least one event station.

See: <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#QSLs> and use the "Route 66" menu at the top of the web page to find more information.

#### California, cont'd.

and four-letter county abbreviation for California stations. Since the sunspot cycle has just begun its decline, it's worth trying 10 and 15 meters. Even an hour or two of operation can be enjoyable.

For more information, see <http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html>

# Mark Your Calendar

## 2014 MEETINGS

September 10  
(tentative dates)  
October 8  
November 12

## TIME

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

## PLACE

Hoover Elementary School  
23720 Hoover Ave.  
Hazel Park 48030



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



**1 Meeting 2 Swap 3 Picnic**

We're on the Web  
[www.hparc.org](http://www.hparc.org)



Scan this QR code to visit the  
HPARC web site

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