



# Zero Beat

January 2022

**General Meeting**  
**Wednesday January 12**  
**At 7:30 pm at the**  
**Hazel Park Library**  
**and on Zoom**  
**With Socializing**  
**At 7:00 pm**

## Club Officers

**President** Joe WB8ADX  
joeraznik@gmail.com

**1st. VP** Marvin W5DT  
marvstasak@gmail.com

**2nd. VP** Mike K8WU  
qrz@k8wu.me

**Secretary** Reuven KB3EHW  
rgevaryahu@gmail.com

**Treasurer** Bob N8REL  
rlau6@aol.com

**Parliamentarian** Hugh KE8BED  
photink77@hotmail.com

**Director** Bill N8QVS  
n8qvs@arrl.net

Don't Let Ham Radio Become A One-Trick Pony.  
Chris Warren

### Guilt trip.

I came across an interesting discussion on an internet ham radio forum. The author, a ham, had misgivings because after being hounded (his term, not mine) to join an local emergency communications (EMCOMM) group, he finally had enough of the nagging and told them to shove it. Afterward he felt somewhat guilty for his harsh rebuke and wondered out loud if perhaps he was wrong.

Being from the internet and all, the story may be embellished or outright fake. But fake or not, it's plausible. Normally the comment would not get my attention but my own experiences indicate that EMCOMM stirs up a lot of strong opinions. I think it's worthwhile to explore why.

### When being average is a bad idea.

He mentioned he had become sour towards EMCOMM because, in his mind, the hams who are into ENCOMM have an almost cult-like (again, his term) devotion to it. Calling it a cult is overdramatic, I think, but it does have a few adherents who are strangely enthusiastic.

He pointed out that emphasis on EMCOMM was not a valid path to attracting new followers into the hobby. Maybe he's an *Off Grid Ham* reader because I've made the same point on this website before. The average person, kids in particular, believe disasters happen to others. They can be forgiven for thinking the guy with a buttload of radios and solar panels is a little odd.

Those who who read this blog, however, are not average. All of you have at least an elevated awareness of the importance of disaster readiness. Some of you are full blown doomsday preppers...not that there's

anything wrong with that. You are absolutely correct for doubting the guy who believes “being prepared” means having a working flashlight and a \$10.00 first aid kit from Walgreens.



### Not-so-random thoughts.

Here’s a thought: If a lot of people are into amateur radio only for its EMCOMM value, then they are not necessarily interested in advancing & encouraging the hobby. Radio is just a tool to them. There is no meaningful way to determine what percentage of the ham radio demographic fits into this category. Anecdotally, they seem to have more visibility in proportion to their numbers.

I don’t think EMCOMM diehards are a majority of hams, they just command a majority of the attention. If you don’t believe me, take a casual stroll around the internet. There are thousands of websites, forums, and social media pages dedicated solely to ham radio EMCOMM and disaster/SHTF, or peripherally related. Other aspects of radio? Yeah, they’re out there too, but in much smaller numbers. Media coverage of amateur radio is almost exclusively EMCOMM-related.

Here’s another thought: Suppose EMCOMM is the only reason xx percent of hams are in the hobby. Let’s also suppose they don’t enjoy it or even care about it as a hobby and have no appreciation for ham radio beyond its EMCOMM functions.

**So how do we address the problem? Is it even a really a problem?**

My response is, so what? There is no rule that every ham should go out and recruit other hams. Everyone is entitled to their own reasons for being a ham, without explanation. My passion is off grid radio. I believe in it so much that I created an entire website around the concept. I do it cheerfully. Trust me...this blog is very labor intensive. I also pay the costs out of my own pocket. No one, and I mean *no one*, would put up a website and crank out an original article every single month for five years unless they truly loved doing it.

But that’s me. Others may feel differently, and that’s fine. They may even think I’m the one who’s too “into it”.

Do we have a problem with overselling EMCOMM to justify amateur radio? I’m not convinced we do, but I sense things drifting in that direction. The angle of approach I take is that I want to advance amateur radio and encourage growth. **SHTF** communications is just a subset of that, not a purpose unto itself. To be clear, I am not saying that EMCOMM is not valid or worthwhile. I’m only saying that we can’t let this hobby become a one-trick pony.

### There is a better way to do this.

The ARRL does a pretty good job of promoting amateur radio in a well-rounded way. Their videos and printed materials prominently include the **STEM/STEAM** aspects of the hobby, which is most attractive to young people. Community service is in there too, and of course EMCOMM. Offering a buffet of options within the large universe that is ham radio is a much more appealing message than shouting the hair-on-fire trope “*you’ll need it when the cell towers and internet go downwwwwwn!*”

How you can help is to demonstrate your particular brand of amateur radio to others. Whether your “thing” is DXing, contests, parks on the air (POTA), youth groups, off grid operating, or experimenting, I am personally asking (not demanding) that you spread the word. We do not need animosity between the various ham radio tribes. There’s plenty of room in the spotlight for everyone.

## 2021-11-10 HPARC general meeting at the Hazel Park Memorial Library

Call to order 7:32pm

Pledge of allegiance - There are different opinions on the video, this time we'll stand and say it, we will alternate with the video.

Member introductions

17 in person

5 or 6 more online

New members Jeff KA8PHP, Patrick KE8TAP, Jeff KE8TAQ

Holiday party in this location next month - update on planning from John W8TOY. Mains provided by club, feel free to bring sides to pass

Presentation from Dan KB6NU on mentoring, via Zoom

ARISS. Announcement— Trying to put together ARISS contact for. Davis Aerospace technical high school in Detroit. Larry. KE8LXA filled in some details- We are putting together the proposal now. Trying to start a club in the school, plan to run a technician course for them, waiting on books. Hoping to have some of the students licensed. Bob/Jerry/Len/Joe are working on this. Website info from KB8U - New website, cloud hosted, new look, online store.

Jan 23rd 2022 will be our swap at Royal Oak farmer's market.

November sweepstakes phone portion is Nov 19-21. Hopefully we will have an online presence for this contest. Quick poll- 4 attendees did the CW portion.

Treasurer's report. Starting to spend money for the swap. Behind by \$300 on dues. Deficit of 600 so. Far less than expected deficit.

Education- Classes almost over, next round of classes starting January, technician question pool rolling next summer. There will be a \$35 fee for applications at some point, but not yet. The extra class is kind of continuous.

Update on siren tests (done for season) and Skywarn training.

Our club table at the swap will have donations that will be sold to benefit the club.

Breakfast reminder- Cozy cabin Sat. Morning

Meeting closed. 8:58pm

January Contests

8 January	ARRL RTTY Roundup
15 January	North American QSO Party, CW ARRL VHF Contest (50m & up)
22 January	North American QSO Party SSB



## Chairmen

Repeater	Joe WB8ADX
W8JXU Trustee	Bill N8QVS
Swap	John KD8NYF
Field Day	John AA8UU
Education	Jerry W9NPI
Sunday Net	Bob N8REL
Zero Beat Editor	Rick KB5OO
Public Information Officer (PIO)	Rick KB5OO
Webmaster	Mike K8WU
Banquet	John W8TOY
Club Picnic	Jay WB8SBI

## HPARC Nets

### HPARC Official Sunday Night 2-meter Phone Net

Every Sunday a 9:00 Pm local time on the DART repeater, 146.64 (PL 1 00), catch up on club news and information, and just to keep in touch. All amateurs are welcome to check in.

### ARPSC Thursday Night 2-meter phone net

Every Thursday at 8:00 PM on the W8OAK repeater, 146.90 (PL 100). The Hospital radio check net takes place on the last Thursday each month at 7:30 PM on the W8OAK repeater. <http://www.arpdc.com>

## Around Town

### HPARC Buddy Breakfast every Saturday at 9:00 AM (or so)

Cozy Cabin Diner, 2129 E. 12 Mile Rd, Warren, MI  
Come in early for the socializing. Park in the restaurant parking lot.

## Volunteers

LoTW Manager	Murray KE8UM
Refreshments	Brenda N8AQ
Club Cook	Bill N8QVS
Holiday Meeting	Board of Directors
Equipment Inventory	Jim K8ABZ
Audio/Video Specialist	Ken KE8LIG
Lark in the Park	John AA8UU
Meeting Greeter	OPEN
Net Control Operators	Lee KD8TBC John W8TOY Mike K8WU Bob N8REL
HPARC Media Dream Team	Hugh KE8BED Rick KB5OO Al K8ALH John AA8UU Mike K8WU Jim K8ABZ John W8TOY

## Oakland County ARPSC Siren Testing, 1st Saturday at 1:00 PM.

March through November. Contact Marsha, N8FE, at [n8fe@arrl.net](mailto:n8fe@arrl.net), to volunteer and be assigned a siren to test.

## Amateur Radio Licensing Testing

Jerry has announced that license testing will begin again on The second Tuesday of every even month at 7:00 PM at the Oak Park community center.