



Zero Beat

February 2022

General Meeting
Wednesday February 9
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
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Secretary Reuven KB3EHW
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Treasurer Bob N8REL
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Parliamentarian Hugh KE8BED
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Director Bill N8QVS
n8qvs@arrl.net

Winter Ham Radio Operating Opportunities!

Chris Warren January 15,

Are you hibernating this winter?

Where I live, and for most of you, it's really cold! It seems like after the Christmas season is over no one is motivated to do much winter ham radio. It is a great time to keep going with radio activities. Of course, we need to find a way to make it interesting and fun, otherwise why do it at all? What can you do to stay engaged? Well, here are some suggestions:

Editor's Note: Winter Field Day has already happened but I kept the information since it is a part of the article.

Winter Field Day.

Winter Field Day takes place on the last weekend of January and the format is pretty much the same as the much more well known June Field Day. WFD is the neglected stepchild of amateur radio because it gets no where near the support & attention of traditional Field Day. Even the ARRL doesn't seem to care. I had to dig deep into the ARRL website to find any reference to it. Winter Field Day is organized by the Winter Field Day Association, which is not connected to the ARRL. The website has the complete rules and background information.

The event is really meant for those interested in EM-COMM, but of course anyone is welcome to participate. If you are an EMCOMM person or into survival/preparedness, then surely you must understand the importance of being able to operate in hostile weather environments. If you only venture out when the weather is nice (or you never venture out at all), then you're not serious about EMCOMM or for that matter survival or preparedness.

The OH8STN YouTube channel and blog is the go-to resource for rugged, outdoor operating. Julian doesn't just wander out for a few hours here and there. He walks the talk and operates for extended periods in very hard weather, then documents his experiences on line. Anyone who

truly wants to learn how to communicate while in “survival mode” would be doing themselves a huge favor by first checking out OH8STN’s videos. He personifies Winter Field Day.

Ham Meets Military-The Royal Netherlands Army.



Royal Netherlands Army emblem.

By late April it won’t really be winter anymore, but on April 22 the Royal Netherlands Army will be participating in a 12-hour “ham meets military” event. The purpose of the event is to familiarize military personnel with amateur radio. Eight stations will be up and running on several bands. The Netherlands is

a strong ally to the United States, so here is a chance for American hams to bag some DX and extend international goodwill. I would love to see the American military do something like this, and I’d even volunteer to help! I never heard of this project until I was tipped off by a reader so I don’t have details regarding logging, operating rules, etc. There is an English language [QRZ](#) and [Facebook](#) page with frequencies and times.

Fly solo.

I’ve said this before many times and it’s worth hitting on again: You don’t need an organized contest or event to practice your skills! My home station is fully off grid, so I can do this anytime. Still, for the purpose of training for emergency communications and survival/prepping, I take my portable gear out to the field once in a while. I’m going to guess that everyone who reads this blog has an interest in in EMCOMM or survival/preparedness on some level. Getting out in bad weather may not be everyone’s idea of grand time, but if you are serious about EMCOMM and/or survival/preparedness, then you have to take the bad with the good. So get out there and do it!

If a contests or events are your primary motivator, the [WA7BNM calendar](#) lists hundreds of them. There is something going on every day of the year. While many events may be active only in limited geographical areas, no one should have any problem finding an on-air event that suits them. In addition to contests, there are [several daily nets](#) on HF that provide excellent opportunities.

Get organized!

Many hams take a break from amateur radio over the winter. If you are in this club, use the down time to go through your gear. Clean and organize everything. Fix that cable that’s been flaky since last summer. How are you doing on supplies and spare parts? Do you need to restock replacement fuses, connectors, wire, and other basic necessities? Are your antennas in need of attention? Check your tools and test equipment too. If you’re not going to operate radio, then at least get your house in order for when you do return to the air.

My winter project is to reconfigure my portable station. The goal is to have a complete HF-UHF setup that is light and compact enough to be transported a modest distance (3-5 miles, 4.8-8 km) on foot by one person. The package must include an off grid power source, antennas, and be effective for worldwide communication.

My current portable station already meets most of these requirements. The biggest unresolved problem is fitting it into a package that is comfortable to carry 3-5 miles. The backpack I use now is not appropriate and very painful after just a short walk. Since bringing a chiropractor along on every outing isn’t practical, I’m on the hunt for a backpack or other mode of transport that won’t twist my back & shoulders into a knot before I get to the end of my driveway. I am otherwise more than physically fit enough to carry the load; I just need to fine tune the mechanics of packing everything.

What’s next?

As I write this, at my house it is about 20F (-6C) outside and we got about an inch (2.5 cm) of snow overnight. This is not considered a big deal at all in these parts. The sun is bright and strong, perfect for feeding a hungry solar panel. Whether you go it alone or in a group, work a contest or do everyday operating, it doesn’t matter. Get out there and practice your skills in the worst of times as well as the best. What are you doing to stay engaged with amateur radio this winter?



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, to volunteer and be assigned a siren to test.

Amateur Radio Licensing Testing

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