



ZERO BEAT

FEBRUARY 2024

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President's QRM

We are now a bit further into the new year, and while the weather has taken some interesting turns – as it usually does in Michigan winters – we've seen some good domestic and DX opportunities arise across the HF bands. Due to antenna damage, I was not QRV for a good portion of January, but when I was, I was reaching into Europe, as well as the west coast of the United States and Canada, regularly on 40 meters. 10 and 15 meters are also open almost daily if you have those bands in your shack.

I missed out on the ARRL January VHF Contest this year due in part to the antenna problems mentioned above, but I have plans to put up a [semi-]permanent dual band 2m/70cm cubical quad. I used a temporary one in the September VHF Contest on a portable antenna stand/mast, and I got some very good results with it, as written here before. It's another "warmer weather" project...

I'm certainly excited about our club working with Davis Aerospace Technical High School once more. Details are still coming every time I hear about it, but they will be putting a project in space on the "demo flight" of The Exploration Company's Nyx spacecraft, currently scheduled for launch later this year. Ham radio... in space... now THAT'S cool!

While we didn't end up doing a General license course this time around, we are seeing a good amount of participation in our Technician and Amateur Extra courses. Additionally, the "new ham" sessions we are doing at Leonard AD8FK's place are helping people to figure out antennas, feedlines, soldering, and other basic things that will empower them to truly enjoy the hobby regardless of whatever brought them into it originally.

Let's make 2024 a good one for the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club, and Amateur Radio in general! Have fun with Amateur Radio! Thanks! 73,

Mike Phipps, K8WU

What Every HAM Should Know

Here's my ideas about selecting, buying, and using Amateur equipment. We've got "Elmers" in the club who will be glad to supplement this advice.

My VHF-UHF prejudices/preferences:

Lots of Repeaters around. Poke around this site and see who's where: http://www.levinecentral.com/repeaters/google_mapping.php

Lots of Clubs: If you're out of range of Hazel Park, check out the ARRL.org website to find a club nearby. Clubs usually sponsor a repeater and have weekly Nets and maybe Breakfasts so you can meet and greet and find some Elmers. Emergency Management groups ARES, ARPSC, and some CERTS are always looking for new members and offer good FEMA training. For Preppers, you'll find that when it hits the fan, you'll need a group to maintain meaningful communications--otherwise it's chaos.

D-Star, Fusion, and other FM Digital Modes--to me, their development is still in flux. Too many proprietary systems Fusion won't talk to D-Star without your investing effort and money for more stuff. I would wait until the smoke cleared before I would invest major money in one of those radio modes, unless your local Emergency groups or clubs have already standardized on one. Analog should work on the great majority of Repeaters.

HTs: none of the Chinese brands, unless you accept that once they break, you throw them away. Check out reviews of the TYTs, Baofengs (BTECH) on eHam.net. Stay away from Wouxun! The mainstream Icom, Kenwood, and Yaesu have much better quality control and customer service. Get a programming cable (either from dealer or eBay) and you can use Chirp free programming software. Works for a lot of HTs and mobiles.

Yaesu has a nice, small "Baofeng-competitor" 144/440 dual bander. Get the Programming cable and download free software for the FT-4 from the Yaesu.com. Get an off-market 5/8 wave antenna to replace the original "rubber duckie." Make sure that its connector matches the radio.

VHF/UHF Mobiles: none of the Chinese brands, unless you accept that once they break, you throw them away. R&L electronics has a deal for a dual-band 50-watt TYT with Jetstream power supply for low \$: <http://www.randl.com/> Buy a 5/8 wave magnet-mount antenna for the car roof or trunk lid, making sure that the connector matches the radio. Some of these are in the \$20 range.

To make it a Base station, buy a Jetstream DC power supply (go for the most amps you can afford--about \$100 for 20 to 25 amps, which will also help power your eventual HF radio). Get a "gain" vertical from Cushcraft or Comet for a base-station chimney-mount antenna. Home Depot should have the mounting hardware. There are a lot of good choices out there. The clerks at the radio stores are knowledgeable. Anyone who advertises in QST magazine has been vetted, and is trustworthy. Remember that they won't want you to leave without buying something...

HF radios: For Technicians, the 10-meter SSB privilege is starting to pay off. I contacted stations in the Caribbean, South America, and Europe a few days ago, and the rubber band will stretch farther. Most hams now use 100-watt transceivers. Going QRP (5 watts or less) might be fun, but it's much more challenging to make contacts. The rule: "How much money you got, kid?" If you have the dough, the Icom IC-7300 160-6mtr transceiver is very hot. Others swear by the Yaesu FT-991A, which includes HF, 6, 2, and 440. These are \$1,100 or more, to start. Some cheaper, sophisticated stuff is now coming out from China and India, but make sure someone in the US knows how to service them--otherwise they'll make great anchors for your rowboat. Other radios range from \$700-\$12,000 (for the One who has everything!). You'll need a power supply (\$90-150) and antenna tuner (LDG-Z 100+, @ \$150-175) as well as an antenna for the bands you work. Ask an Elmer for advice. One of our members, Wes Plouff, presented a good talk on buying (used) an HF station for \$500.

Here are good sources for new ham equipment:

R&L Electronics in Hamilton, Ohio (near Cincinnati) <<http://www.randl.com/>>

Also DX engineering, Gigaparts, Ham Radio Outlet. They sometimes have used equipment, too.

Eham.net has a good equipment review section.

Hope to see you on the air!

Jerry, W9NPI

Minutes January 10, 2024 General Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Intros

New members announced

Presentation by Joe WB8ADX on Amateur Radio in Space

Ken AD8M - promoted the extra class- even if you aren't studying for extra.

Jay WB8SBI - AO85 first cubesat was involved with the software

Mentoring- Antenna workshop event on 2/24/24 advanced antennas, specifically wire antennas. At Len AD8FK's location. 3/16 follow-up meeting.

Upcoming Contests- North American QSO party CW 1/13, Jan VHF 1/20-22, NA QSO party SSB 1/20. April solar eclipse QSO party.

Announcement of data mode Baud Rate limit removal effective 1/8/2024. 2.8khz bandwidth limit.

License class reminder; Tech class moved to Tuesday (alongside Extra class) - both on Zoom. License testing 2/6/24 at Oak Park community center.

Treasurer report- Bob N8REL - ahead of where expected because of raffle profits from a few years ago added to the club- \$435 from that. Expenses are lower since we spent less on the repeater than expected.

Sunday net reminder. Breakfast reminder.

Stuff to share with group - Bob N8REL- Some have raised the issue of the net to start at 8 instead of 9. Discuss if it is a good idea or not. Initially there was a motion to vote on it, but after discussion we decided to vote on it at the next meeting. Will do another poll on the net. Repeater controller and vhf/uhf link needs to have programming updated too.

Meeting Adjourned 8:58pm

Activities (Continued)

June 22nd - Field Day at Camp Agawam

July, August - Summer Hiatus September -

Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPS)C Thursday Night 2 meter Phone Net

Thursdays at 8:00PM on the W8OAK repeater, 146.90 MHz Offset -0.6 MHz PL 100 <http://www.arpsc.com>

Hospital Radio Check

Last Thursday of the month at 7:30PM on the W8OAK repeater, 146.90 MHz Offset -0.6 MHz PL 100 <http://www.arpsc.com>

Repeater Crawl

Fridays at 7:00PM, <https://mi-arpsc.org/net/wcrc/>

HPARC HAM Buddy Breakfast Socializing

Saturdays at 8:15AMish, Cozy Cabin Diner, 2129 E. 12 Mile Rd (near Dequindre), Warren, MI

Attendance was up Saturday, February 3rd, to 18 HAMs, including two HAMs that were "new-to-us"! As usual, lots of cross connections were made. One attendee was interested in using amateur radio on his boat, another pointed him towards EchoLink and another added that there is a EchoLink Puget Sound Sailing HAM group! Everybody has something to add. Please come and keep HAM Buddy Breakfast valuable and fun!

Oakland County ARPS)C Siren Testing

First Saturday of the month, March through November, at 1:00PM on the KE8HR repeater, 146.760 MHz, Offset -0.6 MHz PL 100. Contact Marsha, N8FE, at n8fe@arri.net, to be assigned a siren to test.

Antenna Class and Workshop—Advanced

Greetings Fellow Hams;

I hope you had a joyful Christmas and are looking forward to the New Year. The next Antenna Class and Workshop is on February 24 and March 16. This advanced Class will focus on wire antennas. Please let me know if you will be attending and I will send you the details of where and what time the classes will be held. Two days is necessary because the topic necessitates more than one session and it will give some a second chance to attend. The focus of this advanced session will be wire antennas.

Please contact me if you feel confident in your knowledge about any of these topics and are willing and able to present and coach others wanting to learn. Presenters and coaches are not limited to this list, but should include one or more of the following topics: Ununs and baluns and chokes, Current Balun vs Voltage Balun (defined, how and why they work, when, where, and how to use), Balanced vs. unbalanced antenna, Polarity : Vertical vs. Horizontal, Impedance matching, Using an Antenna Tuner, Grounding, Wire antennas: Fan dipoles, Traps, Monoband and Multiband antenna, Loops, Full wave and magnetic loop, End fed half wave, Carolina Windem, Double bazooka, Cob-web, HF vertical, N. V. I. S. antenna and propagation, Antenna modeling software programs, Antenna analyzer & VNA, Radiation patterns, Antenna gain, Ladder line; where, when & how to use, COAX feed lines and connectors, Coupling and matching methods and designs, Inductive vs capacitance coupling and tuning, Tuned and / or resonant circuit, Non-resonant antenna, Preamp; when to use, where to install, Mechanical ; supports, lines, insulators, knots, cable clamps, Soldering.

I will be the facilitator. I will prepare the venue, make introductions, and assist leaders and coach as needed.

Each topic could take an hour. Our objective is to meet the needs and interests of participants which we can only try to anticipate. Think of a new General licensee setting up a station.

Cordially,

Len AD8FK@yahoo.com

Volunteers

W8JXU Trustee	Bill N8QVS
Mentoring	Leonard AD8FK
Contesting Mentor	Mike WD8S, Gerry K8GT
STEM/STEAM	Joe WB8ADX
Siren Check Ldr	Marsha N8FE
LoTW Mgr (Log)	Murray KE8UM
Cook	Bill N8QVS
Lark in the Park	John AA8UU
Net Control Op	Len AD8FK
	John W8TOY
	Mike K8WU
	Bob N8REL
Media Team	Hugh KE8BED
	John AA8UU
	Mike K8WU
	John W8TOY
Public Info (PIO)	Joe WB8ADX
Webmaster	Reuven KB3EHW
Facebook Admin	Aaron W8VIP
	Reuven KB3EHW
Zero Beat Editor	Donald KD8NYD

Health and Welfare

HSOZBG Don Craft has come home from Thailand and is waiting for your call on 2m. His Extra call was AB8RH. Before that he was KB8MVS.

Births? Birthdays? Memberships? Licenses Earned? Awards? Certificates? Anniversaries? Equipment Investments?

Editor's Note:

Apologies to those who submissions did not get published.

Please resubmit.

Thank you!

KD8NYD

Propagation - Sunspot Predictions

A nice graph and interesting links:

<https://www.weather.gov/news/102523-solar-cycle-25-update>

<https://www.space.com/solar-maximum-expected-2024-new-predictions-suggest>

<https://skyandtelescope.org/astronomy-news/new-forecast-resets-solar-cycle-expectations/>

Dec 25, 2024: 10m and 12m was open across the country and into South America and the Caribbean all day and until 7:30PM per Reuven KB3EHW

W8HP

A north receive site is our highest priority. We are ARPSC backup but our coverage to the north isn't good enough.

Please let Joe WB8ADX know if you can host a north receive site. A west receive site would also be helpful. We have the parts for adding monitoring to each receive signal.

ARDC Grant for repeater - Denied. Repeater grant meetings in process to get a resubmission prepared.

W8JXU

Contact Us

Submissions: jonesdlus2@yahoo.com

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Not only can you make contacts without using a radio, you can receive awards for Direct Connections (DX) while you are gardening! The ARRL frowns on this. Do we really want to clog the bands with computers contacting other computers?

A Fellow HAM

Officers

President	Mike K8WU qrz@k8wu.me
1st. VP	Joe WB8ADX joeraznik@gmail.com
2nd. VP	Jim W8DPM tenaciousjd@gmail.com
Secretary	Reuven KB3EHW rgevaryahu@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bob N8REL rlau6@aol.com
Parliamentarian	Hugh KE8BED photoink77@hotmail.com
Director	Len AD8FK len1perkins@yahoo.com

Sharing 1240—1300 MHz

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radio Communication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) was held in December in Dubai. The International Amateur Radio Union's (IARU) primary effort focused on Agenda Item 9.1 topic b to address amateur use of the 23-centimeter band and co-frequency use by several radio navigation satellite service (RNSS) systems in the 1240 – 1300 MHz band. IARU's work resulted in a well supported compromise for a footnote in the Radio Regulations regarding amateur and amateur satellite service operation in the 1240 -1300 MHz range. The footnote reminds administrations and amateurs of the need to protect the primary RNSS from interference, and it provides guidance for administrations to allow both services to continue to operate in this portion of the spectrum.

Committee Chairs

Holiday Pot Luck 12/?/24	John W8TOY
Picnic-(Date?)	Jim W8DPM
Swap-(Date?)	John KD8NYF
Field Day 6/22/2024	John AA8UU
Repeaters, W8HP/W8JXU	Joe WB8ADX

Mission

Service Through Education

<https://hparc.org/>