Zero Beat

November 10, 2025

President's QRM

"We may not always agree, but we always listen."

In the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club, we take pride in more than just technical excellence—we also set the standard for how people can communicate respectfully, even when opinions differ. Amateur Radio has always been about more than frequencies and equipment; it's about connection. Whether we're discussing repeater upgrades, antenna placement, or digital platform choices, HPARC members show that it's possible to share differing views without losing respect for our fellow amateur radio enthusiasts.

Over the DART, at Saturday Morning Breakfast and at club meetings, differences of opinion are common. DART Members bring decades of experience and passion to the table, and sometimes those perspectives differ. Yet, the tone remains thoughtful and constructive. By listening as carefully as we transmit, we remind one another that the call signs we use carry a reputation built on courtesy. The DART repeater itself stands as a symbol of that teamwork—a collaboration that thrives because operators value mutual respect as much as signal clarity.

By upholding this standard, the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club reflects the very best traditions of Amateur Radio. We show that disagreement need not divide us and that communication—rooted in respect—can build lasting friendships. In an era when polite dialogue is sometimes in short supply, HPARC members prove every day that curiosity and cooperation are as much a part of our hobby as the radios we operate.

Joe, WB8ADX

General Meetings are heald the second Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm at the Hazel Park Library and on Zoom With Socializing At 7:00 pm .

See you there!

Club Officers:

President: Joe WB8ADX

1st. VP: Len AD8FK

2nd. VP: Andrew AJ0WX

Secretary: Reuven KB3EHW

Treasurer: Bob N8REL

Parliamentarian: Hugh KE8BED

SS Edmund Fitzgerald

50th Anniversary Special Event

November 10, 1975, the ore freighter SS Edmund Fitzgerald sank during a storm en route from Superior, WI to Detroit, MI. Twenty nine crew members were lost when the vessel went down in 530 feet of water, 17 miles NW of Whitefish Bay in Lake Superior.

The story of the "Fitz" is well-known, largely through Gordon Lightfoot's song "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald."

To commemorate this event in Great Lakes history, many Livonia ARC members will be signing with the Special Event callsign W8F,

"Base" QRGs- CW 14.050 7.050, SSB; 14.240 7.240 (+-) from 0000 UTC November 2, through 2359 UTC November 15.

A highlight of this Special Event will be a single-day (Saturday November 8) operation from the Dossin Great Lakes Museum at Belle Isle State Park on the Detroit River.

Need to get Caught up on the Repeater Upgrade?

The Repeater Grant Team is working hard to get the repeater replaced. Please check out the News feeds at HPARC.org

From Your Mentoring Committee

Gratefully we have had a good response from those willing to be Mentors, and from others requesting help.

Obviously, the ideal is one on one. When you hear someone asking questions directly or indirectly, and you are willing and able to answer and help, speak up. Yes, it is risky. It will cost you some TIME and whatever else you are willing to contribute. Most likely the recipient will be grateful and you will have won a friend.

When you hear someone speak about what you are interested in, approach them directly or by email. Respectfully introduce yourself and ask your question(s). Most likely the experienced person is eager to help and share what he has learned, especially when you are attentive and considerate of their time, and the timing of the discussion.

To help facilitate the Mentoring, a Questionnaire is available.

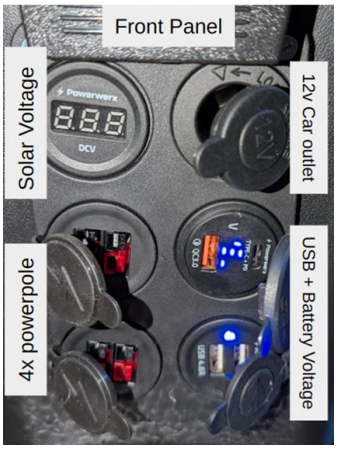
Join us for Breakfast Saturday Morning at 8am at the Cozy Cabin on Twelve Mile East of Dequindre.

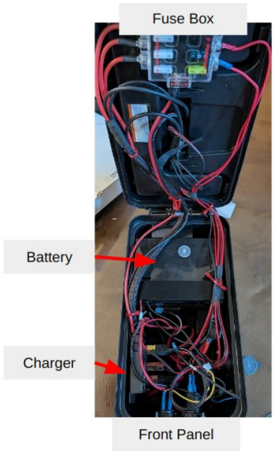
Len AD8FK

A DIY solar generator for portable radio use

Whether its POTA, camping, or emergency use, many hams operate independent from grid power. With the price of solar and batteries coming down, solar generators, a combination of LiFePo4 battery, solar charger, and solar panel, are a popular choice for this. The main drawback is that almost all commercial products are focused on 120v use and there is no good way to power a radio directly from the unit. This DIY build was done to make a 12v output solar generator to limit the amount of equipment needed in the field.

The principle behind the system is simple: a solar panel can provide up to 100w at an inconsistent voltage, while not the best for running a radio, it works great for topping off the battery between transmit cycles, which is when the power demand is the highest. A 36Ah battery is used to provide up to 36A of current during the heavy loads, the battery is charged with an Epic PWRGate charge controller which can switch between 12v input, solar, and battery. The addition of a 12v input makes it easy to charge at home and even allows functionality as an uninterruptible power supply for home use. To avoid powering the unit when in storage, a 12v 200A relay is used to disconnect the positive terminal when not in use. All of this plus a fuse box is contained in a box from harbor freight. This allows up to 5 hours of operation on battery alone and almost indefinite use if the sun is shining.





The pros of a DIY build are the user has a deeper understanding of how the system is built and performs and can design it to meet their specific needs. It is also easier to upgrade or replace batteries when they reach end of life. The cons are there is no support and the warranty, if any, would be on individual parts only. While a DIY solar generator build may not be the best option for everyone, for those wanting specific capabilities not offered by the market, it may be a viable option.

Andrew AJ0WX

Join us an the HPARC Sundy Night 2 Meter Web, 9:00 PM 146.640 MHz, 100.0 Hz PL Minus offset.

From the Treasurer, Bob N8REL

el Park Amateur Radio Club
Income Statement: Actual v Budget
FYE 06-30-2026 as of October 31, 2025
period as indicated
*** does not include Repeater Grant activity....see separate statement ****

	Current Month - October			Year to date		
	month ACTUAL	month BUDGET	Variance	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD
Summary						
TOTAL INCOME	60.00	300.00	(240.00)	695.00	640.00	55.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	167.84	1,111.00	943.16	747.23	1,884.00	1,136.77
Net	(107.84)	(811.00)	703.16	(52.23)	(1,244.00)	1,191.77

ARDC Grant progress by month	at June 30, 2025	at July 31, 2025	at Aug 31, 2025	at Sept 30, 2025	at Oct 31, 2025	at Nov 30, 2025	at Dec 31, 2025
Avail at Beginning of Month	26,743.00	26,263.20	26,263.20	16,895.20	16,007.20	16,007.20	
used	479.80	0.00	9,368.00	888.00	0.00	5,495.00	
Remaining Grant fund NOT including Club contrib	**26,263.20**	**26,263.20**	**16,895.20**	**16,007.20**	**16,007.20**	**10,512.20**	

Winter Projects – November Antenna Build

As Winter quickly approaches and as I sit here looking at the first now start to fall I realise I'm now done working outside. So, I need to start my list of winter projects. First on my list I think I will go stealth and see how the 2-Meter Slot Cube works out.

This tiny antenna is 10"X10"X7" so it can easily hide if needed. It is made from ½" copper pipe. I priced it out at home depot and you should be able to build this antenna for about $35.

Part List:

10 Foot Piece Of 1/2 Inch Copper Pipe
1/2 Inch Tee Qty: 2
1/2 Inch 90-Degree Copper Elbow Qty:10
1/2 Inch PVC TYPE C Conduit Body Qty: 1
SO-239 or Female N Surface mount connector.

Cut The Following Pieces From Pipe:

1 Inch Or 25.4mm Qty: 2
3.5 Inch Or 88.9mm Qty: 2
6 Inch Or 152.4mm Qty: 2
7 Inch Or 177.8mm Qty: 2
8 Inch Or 203.2mm Qty: 2
8.5 Inch Or 215.9mm Qty: 4

This project will also refresh your sweat soldering skill…except in this case it doesn't matter if the joints have leaks. To construct I suggest watching one, or more of the many You Tube videos out there. Mike N8VDZ