

Zero Beat

October, 2026



President's QRM

What I would like to write about this month is about Amateur Radio Etiquette. I remember sitting in the HPARC NOVICE CLASS way back in the 80's when we learned radio operating rules, band plans etc. One of the things we learned about was AMATEUR RADIO ETIQUETTE which seems to have faded over the years. We have a lot of new ham operators that really don't have any experience on how to conduct themselves on the air. So I did a Duck Duck Go search (Not Google lol!) and this is the AI response that came up on my screen.

Listen before transmitting to ensure the frequency is clear and avoid interrupting ongoing conversations. When joining a chat on a repeater, state your call sign during a pause between transmissions rather than using the word "break," which is reserved for emergencies.

Identify your station by stating your full call sign clearly at the start and end of every contact, and at least every 10 minutes during longer conversations. Use the standard phonetic alphabet if clarity is needed, and keep transmissions concise to avoid monopolizing shared airwaves.

Maintain a courteous and respectful demeanor by avoiding controversial topics like politics or religion, and never use profanity or offensive language. Be considerate of others by not hogging the frequency, pausing after your transmission to allow others to break in, and treating new operators with patience and encouragement.

So what does that mean? We would like conversations on our repeaters to follow the same etiquette. Remember, people listen to our conversations on scanners etc.

Reminder: We are currently catching up on our membership dues. If you are behind on dues, please bring your membership up to date. Our repeaters req

73

DE Mike W8VPC
President HPARC

General Meetings are held 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: Mike, W8VPC

1st VP Leonard, AD8FK

2nd VP Al, K8ALH

Treasurer Bob, N8REL

Secretary Reuven, KB3EHW

Parliamentarian Hugh, KE8BED

Director Andrew, AJ0WX

Zero Beat Editor: Mike N8VDZ



A rare photo of President Lincoln and the Baofeng he won at a hamfest.

Please don't say this was "Photoshopped."

There was no Photoshop back then!

Get involved in Emergency Management!

Oakland Wayne and Macomb Counties have multiple groups that would love to have you on their teams.

Each County has its own **Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPS)** plus groups like Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

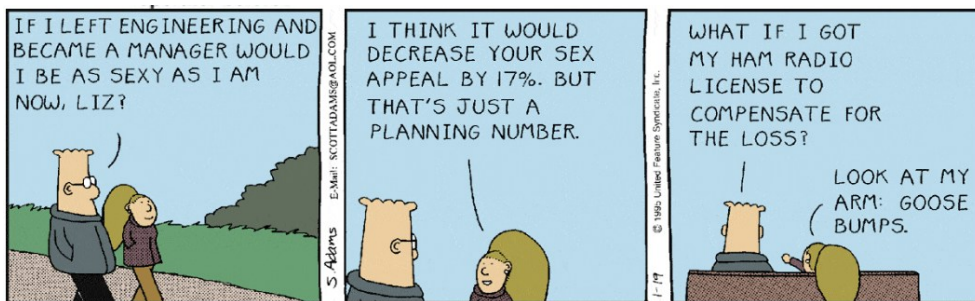
Dearborn Heights CERT
Harrison Township CERT
Novi CERT
Southfield CERT
Sterling Heights CERT
Taylor CERT
Warren CERT
Waterford CERT

Some of the CERT teams use Amateur radios, All of the ARPS team rely on amateur radio.

Some of these teams are not very active, train and be ready for a large scale emergency while other teams activate multiple times a week.

All of these require training but none of it is difficult and much of it is done from your home on your computer. But don't wait for the emergency because if you contact a team during the emergency, they do not have time to train you so you will be left sitting on the bench while we use our trained people right now.

***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*



HPARC License Classes!

Have you considered sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm for HAM RADIO? Now is your time.

We have an immediate need for another instructor for our **GENERAL LICENSE class** which we would like to start up in January. Don't worry, you will not be alone. The General Class duties are shared between three instructors. This means that you would be the lead instructor for probably only three chapters out of the nine chapters in the General Class license manual.

We now also have a need for another instructor for our **TECHNICIAN LICENSE class** which we would also like to start up in January 2027. After having been one of the instructors since January 2019, it is time for me, N8REL, to hang up my PowerPoints. There have been three instructors for the Tech class so each person only had to present three times. It has been a very fulfilling experience for the seven years I have been involved, so I urge you to volunteer for this important function.

Please give this some consideration and help some newbies to get their Technician License or help some Technicians upgrade to the General class license.

Please contact our new **Education Chairman, Joe Raznik, WB8ADX**, and become one of our club leaders. This is a personally rewarding experience which will enhance your own knowledge and understanding.

Bob N8REL

Join us for breakfast, every Saturday, 8 am at the Cozy Cabin Restaurant, 12 Mile just east of Dequindre.

Bridging the Airwaves and the Open Source: Why Linux belongs in your Shack

For decades, amateur radio has been built on a foundation of curiosity, experimentation, and a spirit of openness. We don't just use our gear; we seek to understand, repair, and improve it. In the world of computing, there is a mirror image of this philosophy: Linux.

At its core, amateur radio is about the free exchange of information and the exploration of technology. Linux—and the broader Open Source movement—shares these exact "open principles." Just as we share schematics, antenna designs, and building techniques, Linux developers share their source code. This transparency ensures that the tools we use are not black boxes controlled by a single entity, but rather assets that anyone can inspect, modify, and improve.

One of the most practical reasons to consider Linux for your shack is its remarkable efficiency. We've all been there: a perfectly functional laptop or desktop becomes "obsolete" because a new version of Windows requires more RAM or a specific processor feature. Microsoft may have abandoned that hardware, but Linux gives it a second life.

Lightweight distributions, like Lubuntu or XFCE-based Mint, can turn a ten-year-old "clunker" into a dedicated, lightning-fast radio workstation. By removing the overhead of modern commercial operating systems, you free up your CPU cycles for what really matters: processing signals.

The ecosystem of ham radio software on Linux is vast and professional-grade. Whether you are into weak-signal digital modes, contesting, or satellite tracking, there is a tool available—usually for free.

- Digital Modes: WSJT-X and FLDigi are the gold standards for FT8, PSK31, and RTTY.
- SDR and Visualization: Programs like GQRX and CubicSDR allow you to turn a cheap RTL-SDR dongle into a powerful spectrum analyzer.
- Logging and Contesting: CQRLOG provides a robust, database-driven logging environment that integrates beautifully with online services like LoTW and eQSL.
- Station Management: For those into Winlink or packet radio, tools like

...Continued on Page 5



Local Area Nets

HPARC Friendship Net: 146.640 PL 100—Sunday 9:00 pm
Warren CERT: 443.550 PL 107.2 2nd & 4th Mondays 8:30 pm
Macomb ARPSC: 142.700 PL 100 Thursday 7:00 pm
Oakland ARPSC: 146.900- PL 100.0 Thursdays at 8pm
Wayne ARPSC: 145.33+ PL 100 Wednesday 9:00 pm

Double Nickel: 443.550 PL 107.2 Mondays 6:30 pm
GMARC Information Net: 145.210 PL 100.0 Mondays 8:00 pm
Wayne Co. Repeater Crawl: 145.330 PL 100 Fridays 7:00 pm
Southeastern Michigan Traffic Net: 146.760 PL 100.0 Daily 10:15 pm

From the Treasurer, Bob N8REL

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
Income Statement: Actual v Budget
FYE 06-30-2027 as of September 30, 2026
period as indicated

*** does not include Repeater Grant activity...see separate statement ****

	Current Month - Sept			Year to date		
	month	ACTUAL	month BUDGET	Variance	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
				fav/ (unfav)		Variance YTD
Summary				fav/ (unfav)		fav/ (unfav)
TOTAL INCOME		470.00	190.00	280.00	610.00	280.00
TOTAL EXPENSE		73.76	622.00	548.24	512.25	1,096.00
Net		396.24	(432.00)	828.24	97.75	(816.00)

ARDC Grant progress by month			
	at July 31, 2026	at Aug 31, 2026	at Sept 30, 2026
Avail at Beginning of Month	8,273.78	8,273.78	8,273.78
used	0.00	0.00	0.00
Remaining Grant fund NOT including Club contrib	8,273.78	8,273.78	8,273.78

IT'S MY HOBBY, WHAT CAN I DO?

NEW HAM OR OLD, WHAT MIGHT I DO AS AN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR

MAKE IT OR BUY IT?

Which is better?

As an amateur radio operator every once in a while we find we need something related to the hobby. Maybe it is an antenna, or some coax, or possibly a new radio. But we all come to that moment and when when we say “I can’t afford it” and hopefully we say “Hmmm, maybe if I make this I can afford to buy that”. Many of us don’t even consider that question and just connect with Amazon or DX Engineering or don’t get anything at all. But I urge you to consider it. Here’s why. There are many things you can make for \$15 or you can buy for \$75. Then a few months later you make something else and save another \$75 and then you realize, with the money you saved on the things you made, your new Kenwood TM-281A can be ordered and you finally can stop using a handheald in the car.

I know some will argue, “I’ve never made anything before”, or “I don’t know what parts are in that plastic box labeled 1:1 Choke”. There are 1,000’s of You-Tube videos giving you DIY step by step instructions and parts lists to make it easy. However, making some things are not so easy. For instance you might say “My friend has an Icom IC-7300, maybe I can make one.” Well, very few of us could make a radio that performs as well as the IC-7300 so that one we buy, and we buy it with the money we saved by making other things.

Let’s talk about some of the simple things you can make and save a bunch of cash.

1:1 Balun. Common mode current (CMC) is something we all need to address, but I can talk for an hour on CMC so for this article I will just assume you know all about CMC. A 1:1 balun from DX (DXE-MC20-FC) costs \$184. Let’s look at the work and cost of making it ourselves. The parts needed are: A waterproof electrical box

Continued on Page 5

LinBPQ and Dire Wolf offer high-performance software TNC capabilities that far exceed older hardware solutions.

Transitioning to Linux does come with a learning curve, but it is one that hams are uniquely qualified to tackle. We are used to navigating menus, configuring interfaces, and troubleshooting connections. By adopting Linux, you aren't just installing an operating system; you are choosing a platform that respects your hardware and aligns with the DIY heritage of our hobby.

Next time you see an old PC headed for the scrap heap, grab it, "tux" it up, and see what it can do for your station.

Andrew, AJ0WX

It's My Hobby...From Page 4

Home Depot \$7.98, 2-SO-239 panel mount connectors, Amazon \$13.97, 1 FT240-31 (1MHz-300MHz) Toroid, Amazon \$8.99, 1 meter of RG-316 coax \$2.04, 2 zip ties, \$0.08 Totaling—\$33.42. Making this is pretty easy, just a few steps. 1. Secure one end of the coax to the toroid with a zip tie. 2. Complete 12-13 turns through the toroid. 3. Secure the other end of the coax with the 2nd zip tie. 4. Connect the 2 so-239 connectors to the top and bottom of the watertight box. 5. Connect the center conductor and the braid from each end of the coax to each of the so-239 connectors. 6. Secure the lid. Done. You have created the same CMC choke as DX only saving yourself \$150. But wait, It is suggested you have one at the feed point of the antenna and one at the back of your transmitter...Well you spent \$66 but saved \$300.

OK what about coax. No we really can't make LMR-400 but, we can buy it without the connectors and add them ourselves. Crimping tools cost around \$40 so we will look at non-crimp that also work very well. 100' of LMR-400, with PL-239 connectors costs an average of \$157. Without connectors the same coax costs \$96, and connectors cost \$3 each. By adding your own connectors, less than 30 minutes work, you can save \$61.

Whether with antennas or many other parts of the hobby you can save money here and there in order to buy stuff you can't make maybe even stuff you thought you could not afford.

So in the end, remember You-Tube and the many books available from ARRL you can learn this stuff easily. Just a little homework and you can make an educated decision whether to make it or buy it.

Mike N8VDZ

TELL US ABOUT IT!

Member News

Did you :

Participate in a contest?

Build an antenna?

Travel and make contacts?

Bounce a signal off the moon?

Upgrade your license?

What are you doing in the world of amateur radio that you'd like to share with the club.

Send it to Mike N8VDZ



October is here, time to study Granny Smith Charts.

