



The Zero Beat

THIS MEETING

April 15, 2009
7:30 P.M.
 (socializing begins at 7)
 Hoover Elementary
 23720 Hoover Ave.
 Hazel Park 48030

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GENERAL MEETING

This month's **meeting will be held on the THIRD Wednesday, April 15** due to a conflict at the school. This is the year of the QSO Party and Triple Play QSO Party and everyone needs Michigan. Mike WD8S will give a presentation on the Michigan QSO Party and contesting in general. Also Banquet tickets are available at the meeting for \$20 cash or check.

The meetings are open to any and all interested in amateur radio and we would like to see some of our members who haven't been around for a while. Come and tell us what else you've been doing as we all have been trying to deal with live as we know it.

PRESIDENT'S QRM

It's April already. This is the month for showers so let's shower the election committee with nominations for club officers. It is very important to have a good choice of quality candidates. Don't miss the April meeting, as nominations will be made from the floor at this meeting. The election will be held at the May meeting. Please see the membership handbook for the duties of the officers. If you don't have a handbook, see Mike, WD8S for one. In addition to what is listed in the handbook the first vice president keeps track of the membership list and collects the dues, which he turns over to the treasure. The second vice president has the external duties like lining up the club meeting programs. He has also reserved the club Dayton rooms in the past (not this year due to lack of demand).

Even if you don't run for a club office there are other things you can do for the club through out the year. It's good to ro-

tate through the various club jobs. It is good experience that will aid you in other endeavors.

Joe, K8JRE showed up at Saturday morning breakfast with a Spudgun he made from the March QST article. It is used to get antenna wires way up in the trees. He may have it at the April meeting. It looks like it would be a good club project. If anyone else has a project they have done we would all love to see it so bring it to a meeting and share it with your buddies and pals.

Our amateur radio license and all the frequencies we have are a privilege so we give something back through public service. This is the time or year that all the special charity fund raising walks start back up. Be sure to volunteer for some of them. Various club members head up some of the teams. As a club we help at the Oak Apple run every year. These walks and runs give us good practice for times of true emergencies. We do occasionally handle small emergencies

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OFFICERS & VOLUNTEERS

- **President:** Murray Scott
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- **1st VP:** Jim Poehlman
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248-398-0086
- **2nd VP:** Dave K8TRF
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- **Treasurer:** John Fleming
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- **Director:** Rich KC8WPW
586-264-5035
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- **Secretary:** Jerry Begel
W9NPI 248-543-2284
afcsman@comcast.net
- **Parliamentarian:** Mike Van Buren WD8S
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- **Newsletter/PIO:** Marsha N8FE n8fe@arrl.net
- **Classes:** Rich KC8WPW
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586 264-5035
- **Swap:** Mike Van Buren WD8S
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- **Technical Coordinator:** Murray Scott
KE8UM@arrl.net
- **VE Testing:** Dee Flint N8UZE n8uze@arrl.net
- **Contest Mentors:** Mike WD8S
wd8s@arrl.net
Gerry K8GT
k8gt@arrl.net
- **Sunday Net:** Bill Ketel N8QVS 248-544-2452
wkettel2@wowway.com
- **50/50 & Donuts:** Rey Bora KD8FVN
- **Field Day :** Paul Athos AA8OZ
248 330-9551
pdaa8oz@yahoo.com
- **Banquet, 50/50, Donuts** Rey Bora KD8FVN
586 758-7998

NETS

Oakland County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp (ARPSC)

Every Thursday @ 8 pm on 146.900 MHz/100pl. Hospital Radio Net on last Thursday of each month during the net. (W8OAK-3 will run packet on 147.56 MHz for those wanting to practice and test their equipment) www.qsl.net/w8oak

Sunday Night 2-meter Phone Net

Every Sunday at 9:00 PM local time, (146.64 (-), catch up on club news and information, and just to keep in touch. All amateurs are welcome to check in.

NTS Traffic Nets

the Southeast Michigan National Traffic System (NTS) net Normally held every night at 10:15 PM local time on 145.33. Net manager is Diane, W18K.

Rocking Chair Net

Hazel Park ARC Nightly 2 meter rag chew net meets on 145.630 MHz simplex (FM phone) at 8:00 PM local time, weekdays + some Saturdays. Net control is usually Bill, N8QVS, or Bill, KB8NIH, both of whom are located in Royal Oak.

Wolverine Net

The 75 Meter Wolverine Net meets on 3935 KHz (LSB phone) daily at 7:00 PM local time with pre-net starting at about 6:30 PM. The nets start a half hour earlier in winter. You can get details from Joe, K8JRE joecuchetti@comcast.net or Ed, W8EDE ed@ellisgen.com.

HPARC medium speed CW net

Every Tuesday night at 8:00 PM on 28.128 MHz. Al, N8WYO, runs the net and will match your speed. This is a net for folks who have mastered the 5 wpm, and want to move up to faster speeds, or if you're a little rusty.

Al calls CQHP at 8 PM sharp!

QRM CONT.

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at these events like finding lost children, calling for medical assistance and/or ambulances and fire trucks.

Club participation is important. Don't forget our weekly nets and breakfasts. If you have a question or need help, let us know. Helping each other is what a club is all about. I was getting e-mails from an out of state ham. He just bought a new GAP multi-band vertical antenna. He tuned it per the instructions and just could not get the SWR down to specifications. Several suggestions flowed back with questions. After it was all over, a week or so later, the problem turned out to be a bad piece of coax. The coax was fairly new and was the last thing he suspected. He was frustrated at times but learned a lot in the end. Did you know that coax ages? Put a good dummy load and wattmeter at the end of your coax some time and see what kind of loss it has at the various frequencies. If you check it when it is new and make a chart you will have something to compare it to ten years or so later.

73 for now, enjoy your radios
Murray, KE8UM

GENERAL UPGRADE CLASS

First class Tuesday

April 21, 2009

Continuing for 13 weeks

Last class is the Exam

Instructor: John Fleming K8UP

Class is free. Cost of the book is \$20. Contact John to register.

248-542-9573

john@fleming-photo.com

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Called to order at 7:30 PM by the President, Murray Scott, KE8UM.

Speaker—Jerry Begel, W9NPI, presented his program, "Cleaning Out the Basement: Ham Radio and eBay." A coffee & donuts break followed.

Business Meeting called to order at 8:30 PM

Secretary's Report

General Meeting Minutes as published in the March Zero Beat. Moved to accept: N8UZE, Second: K8MAR.

Passed.

Treasurer's Report

John Fleming – K8UP, Treasurer reported club's finances current balance of \$7,556. The Club still has not received HP High School's bill for Janitorial services for the Swap. Moved to accept Treasurer's report: N8AE, seconded: N8FI. **Approved.**

Budget

KE8UM entertained a motion to approve the 2009-2010 Club Budget, as presented at the February General Membership meeting. Moved: K8GT, Second: KD8FDP.

Approved.

Old Business—The Nominating Committee will accept candidate applications for 2009-10 Officers. Contact KD8ZOT or KD8ATK

Banquet

W8REY reports that DeCarlos has been reserved for the June 10 banquet. Tickets are now available for \$20 each. We need to sell 50 tickets to break even, otherwise the club pays the difference.

Field Day

KE8UM advised that due to a clerical error on the part of the Hazel Park School Board, we must find another location for our 2009 Field Day. He entertained ideas for a different venue. Some "Brainstorming" occurred. **No action taken.**

KE8UM also advised that the Club will all use the same call

and logging software for this year's operations.

Training

Ham licensing classes already started are:

Tech Classes at Southfield EOC Offices with Marsha Fleming – N8FE and Rich Urbano – KC8WPW. **Two of the six students have already passed;** the others may be ready to take their exams in April.

Tech classes at City of Novi Police Department with John – K8UP. **Fourteen students should be ready to take their exams in April.**

Coming up is a **General License Class beginning April 21, 2009 at the City of Southfield EOC on Tuesday nights 7-9 pm.** The class will run for 12-13 weeks. If interested contact John Fleming at john@fleming-photo.com.

Announcements:

Change of April Meeting Date

KE8UM advised that due to School usage, the April General Membership Meeting will take place on the *Third* Wednesday, April 21, 2009.

ARO Testing

N8UZE advised that the next Licensing Test Session shall be on the first Tuesday in April at the Oak Park Community Center. Since there will be a large number of applicants, more VE's are encouraged to attend.

Dee also announced that she is seeking a Volunteer Examiner to replace her in running the Examination Session, and completing and transmitting results to the FCC.

Antenna Building

AA8OZ advised that he had participated in several clubs' J-Pole Antenna Building Parties, and would run one for Hazel Park, if there was any interest. A show of hands indicated that only one person was interested.

Raffle Rules Changes

K8ABZ advised that new raffle rules are as follows: Starting this March meeting, Richard, KC8WPW will start selling Raffle tickets. In order to continue the raffle without the problems we have had in the past few months from

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BANQUET



We have enjoyed De Carlos for a few years now and this year they have made it possible for us to include a CASH BAR. So come early and have a good time. Enjoy an evening of Good Food, Camaraderie, and the Installation of Officers. This year we have a special treat with a video on BS7H for after dinner.

Date: June 10, 2008

Time: 7pm-10pm

Cost: \$ 20.00 per person

Place: De Carlos Banquet Center

6015 E. Ten Mile Rd. (east of Mound Rd.)

Warren MI 48091

Contact: Rey Bora KD8FVN 586 758-7998 rey62@aol.com

Deadline for reservations is May 31, 2008, so I can have the payment to De Carlos in time for the deadline. We are required to pay for a minimum of 50 people. The room holds up to 75 people. Let's fill it to capacity!

Tickets are available at meetings and by mailing a check to the PO Box. Please write BANQUET on the memo portion of the check. Tickets will be sent to you. Please call Marsha N8FE if you have questions or to make arrangements for tickets. n8fe@arrl.net

FINDING PARTS

Interesting websites with mostly RFI and choke topics, but there is other stuff too.

<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/NCDXACOaxChokesPPT.pdf>

<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/RFI-Ham.pdf>

<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/RFIHamNCCC.pdf>

or, go here for the main list of available articles:

<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/publish>

Dave K8TRF

The 2009 Great Lakes Division Convention will be Saturday, September 13 in Findlay, Ohio. (the day before the Swap) Former Astronaut Tony England, WOORE will be the principal speaker. Watch for further information.

MINUTES . . .

(Continued from page 3)

recurring in the future, some changes had to be made. First ticket purchase will be a ticket bundle. This bundle will consist of 1 red ticket and 8 blue tickets. This bundle will cost \$5.00 (same price as before). This bundle cannot be split. The reason for this is to make sure we can continue to have money to purchase good blue ticket items. There will be a new blue ticket raffle with tickets purchased at the current meeting, as in the past (December and June excluded).

Red ticket purchased will go in a separate container. The red tickets will not be raffled until enough tickets are sold to purchase a radio. After the bundle purchase of 1 red ticket and 8 blue tickets, you can purchase as many red tickets as you want.

President's Notes

KE8UM won a dual-band Mobile radio from the USECA Raffle earlier this year.

Several members participated in CERT training at the Pontiac Emergency Operations Center in March. Members are urged to participate in the Michigan QSO Party, on April 18. "It is one time that Michigan Stations will be sought out."

We still need more volunteers for the Club's Sunday 2-Meter Net.

Upcoming events:

April 4: Lowell Swap

April 18: Milford Swap

May 15-17: Dayton Hamfest

Per Phil Ode, AA8KR, the MS Walk in Troy is on May 3. He circulated a sign-up sheet.

New Member—Lloyd Brombach, KD8NHL, made application for membership. **Approved by acclamation!**

Jacket Donation—K8GEO donated an HPARC jacket, barely worn, to the club. A member gratefully accepted the donation.

Meeting was adjourned 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted, Jerry Begel, W9NPI
Secretary

C Q D X . . .

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. Special event station R150A is QRV from the Central Museum of Communications in St. Petersburg until the end of April in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of A.S. Popov. Activity is on 40 and 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via RK1A.

VANUATU, YJ. Operators G3MXJ and G3TXF are QRV as YJOMXJ and YJOTXF, respectively, from the Aore Island Resort off Espiritu Santo Island, IOTA OC-035, until April 1. Activity is on 40 to 17 meters using only CW. They may try 80 meters if conditions permit. QSL YJOMXJ via F5VHY and YJOTXF via G3TXF.

C9, MOZAMBIQUE (Update). Members of the Texas DX Society are now active as C91TX from Bilene, Maputo Province, until April 5th. Activity will be on all bands 160-10 meters with 3 active stations. Operators mentioned are: Cal/WF5W, Paul/W5PF, Madison/W5MJ, Bill/K5WAF, Dale/KG5U and Jim/N4AL. QSL Manager for C91TX is W5PF. Web page at: <http://www.tdxc.net/c91.html>

3DA0, SWAZILAND (Update). Operators David/GI4FUM (EI4DJ, 3DA0DJ), Tony/ G4LDL, Gerry/M0MNV, Michael/NC4MM and Yuri/UT5EL will be active from the station at the Hawane Resort during the month of August. The object of this activity is to provide a ham radio station at an international scout camp near Manzini between July 31st and August 11th.

David/GI4FUM states, "It would be our intention to stay at and operate from Hawane Resort and in addition provide operators for the scout camp on a daily basis. The camp site will use the call sign 3DA0SS but each team member will have their own 3DA0 call sign. . ."

VK9L, LORD HOWE ISLAND (Update). The VK9LA operation is on the air with all stations active. Operations will last until April 3rd. The team has had some equipment problems: an ACOM Amp is dead, AL811H blew a tube and one IC7000 has failed after 2 days. It was mentioned that the stations on 160 and 80 meters are running amps, but they are having extremely high static levels from the same weather system that has delayed the Mellish Reef operation. The team plans to stay [always] on the lower bands.

CONTEST CORNER

Welcome to Contest Corner. As usual, there seems to be something for everyone. CU on the air.

April 2009

- 3 10 meter NAC - CW/SSB/FM/Digi
- 4-5 Montana QSO Party - CW/Phone/Digi
- 4-6 YLRL DX to NA YL Contest - CW
- 5-6 QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party - CW
- 5-6 EA RTTY Contest - RTTY
- 5-6 Missouri QSO Party - CW/SSB
- 5-6 QCWA QSO Party - All
- 11-13 YLRL DX to NA YL Contest - SSB
- 12 DIG QSO Party (10 - 20 m) - CW
- 12 PSK 31 Flavors Contest - PSK
- 12-13 Georgia QSO Party - CW/SSB
- 13 UBA Spring Contest - SSB
- 13 DIG QSO Party (80 & 40m) - CW
- 13 Hungarian Straight Key Contest - CW
- 13 International Vintage Contest - AM/CW/SSB
- 16 MOON Contest - CW/Digi/SSB
- 19 Holyland DX Contest - CW/SSB/Digi
- 18 Michigan QSO Party - CW/SSB**
- 19-20 Ontario QSO Party - CW/Phone
- 21 Run For The Bacon QRP Contest - CW
- 26-27 Florida QSO Party - CW/Phone
- 26-27 Nebraska QSO Party - CW/Phone/Digi

WE ARE The MI QSO Party

This month is our state QSO Party. HPARC sponsors one of the plaques. The QSO Party is on Saturday April 18 from noon to midnight local time CW and/or Phone.

There will be people working mobile so some of the rare counties will be covered. Get information on their website at www.miqp.net. They have several help documents and even a demo version of NA. However, it is limited in number of contacts.

Come to the April meeting and hear the presentation on the Michigan QSO Party given by Mike WD8S.

Most importantly get on the air and make some Q's.

73

Marsha N8FE

W1AW SPRING / SUMMER SCHEDULE

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM ET)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2000 UTC (4 PM ET)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2000 "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2100 " (5 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
2200 " (6 PM ET)	RTTY	Daily
2300 " (7 PM ET)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
2300 "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0000 " (8 PM ET)	CWb	Daily
0100 " (9 PM ET)	RTTY	Daily
0145 " (9:45 PM ET)	VOICE	Daily
0200 " (10 PM ET)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0200 "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0300 " (11 PM ET)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975
21.0675 28.0675 147.555

RTTY: 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095
147.555

VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390
28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM

CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM ET),

Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM ET) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1400 UTC to 1600 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM ET), and then from 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM ET) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 97 in the January 2009 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.

Starting Monday, March 9, Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be using a new 160-meter frequency for its CW transmissions. To accommodate increasing activity near the current bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz, W1AW will move to 1802.5 kHz to reduce the possibility of interference.

MIQP AT W8OAK

Last year the Oakland County ARPSOC www.arpsc.com won the EOC category for the MI QSO Party. This year there is more competition.

They are again seeking volunteers to operate the W8OAK club station for the Michigan QSO Party. This event takes place on Saturday, April 18 from 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight (that's 1600-0400 UTC).

This is a great opportunity to work stations right here in Michigan, many of which are not active during the year. This is also a great learning opportunity for those who are new to ham radio, as well as for the seasoned operator to brush up and say "hi" to old friends.

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please feel free to contact Joe KJ8O at 248-224-8864 or by e-mail to kj8o@wowway.net

DIGITAL REPEATER?

... On March 23, 2009, the Commission clarified that even if there is a slight delay between what is received and what it transmits (as in the case of D-STAR and other digital repeaters), it is considered simultaneous if the receiver and transmitter are both active at the same time.

Mitchell pointed out in his petition that while the Commission's Rules specify on which bands amateur repeaters may operate, "some amateur repeaters are operating on bands other than set forth in Section 97.205(b) with systems that are essentially voice repeater stations, but that digitize and retransmit the user's voice, on the theory that because there is a small delay in retransmitting the signal of another amateur station, the signal is not 'simultaneously' retransmitted and, therefore, the system is not a repeater."

In its reply, the Commission pointed out that prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as "[a]n amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations." This, the Commission told Mitchell, was revised to clarify "that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations." The Commission proposed to define a repeater as "[a]n amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels," but ultimately replaced "instantaneously" with "simultaneously" because commenters noted that there is always a small propagation delay through a repeater. As one commenter explained, "The word 'simultaneously' in this case means that the repeater is receiving and transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit."

To be able to repeat another station's transmission, the Commission said that a repeater "must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word 'simultaneously' in the definition is used to modify 'retransmit,' we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that 'simultaneously' as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time."

[source www.arrl.org]

RADIO MERIT BADGE



The new BSA Radio Merit Badge Pamphlet includes color pictures and updated charts and text. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has updated the requirements needed to earn the Radio merit badge.

The new requirements became effective with the publication of Boy Scout Requirements 2009. While no new content has been added to the program, the new merit badge pamphlet features lots of new information – including color pictures and updated charts and text– that reflects the changes in the Amateur Radio Service since the last pamphlet update in 2002. Approximately 4000 Radio merit badges are earned each year.

According to ARRL ad hoc Scouting Committee member Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, the new Radio Merit Badge pamphlet had been in the works for some time. "BSA has been replacing all merit badge pamphlets with new booklets using color graphics and more modern presentations," he said. "With attractive color photos and clear text explanations of the requirements, the new merit badge pamphlet is a pleasure for the Scouts to read. The new text is due in large part to the efforts of longtime Radio Merit Badge Counselor and K2BSA National Jamboree Staff member Mike Brown, WB2JWD. I am looking forward to using the new pamphlet to teach Radio merit badge at our Council's Merit-Badge-O-Ree this spring, and to having a supply of the new books available for Scouts during the 2009 summer camp season."

Wolfgang said that the requirements for the badge have been shifted around: "The old Part 4 of Requirement 7(b) Broadcast Radio was pulled out and placed in the main body of the requirements as Requirement 8. In addition, the old Requirement 8 (to visit a radio installation and discuss what types of equipment, how it was used, what types of licenses are required to operate and maintain the equipment, and the purpose of the station) was moved up to Requirement 7, so that now the three options appear as Requirement 9. The main result is one additional full requirement."

ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director and Chairman of the League's ad hoc Scouting Committee Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT, called the Radio Merit Badge "a perfect

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SUGGESTIONS FOR QSO PARTYING

Early contesting should never be about winning. I mean, you don't enter your first marathon to win it without training for it first, right?

If you want to go after a win in the Rookie category, but don't feel ready for it this year, then you shouldn't put the effort in this year *if that is your only reason for operating*. However, whether you operate in it this year or not, you should start TRAINING for next year right now.

Some suggests for that are:

1. Learn how the contest you want to work operates. It's not counted as participating in the contest if you just monitor it. That can be either at your own station, or at someone else's. Listen to how the mobiles and other stations time their exchanges. Get an idea of how often the mobiles change counties. Notice that instate propagation goes long on 40M about 2 hours before sunset and you should change over to 80 for the close in multipliers. Get a feel for it ahead of time before 12 Noon on that Saturday in April, otherwise, you'll be a fish out of water. Ask any of the guys on here that have been around a while for advise and pointers. Experienced contesters are almost always willing to share experience and tips.
2. Learn your own stations capabilities. I think it's safe to say that you will put in your first efforts from your home station. Very few people actually get into contesting from super-duper contest club or multi-multi operations. It all starts with you! Figure out how your 80M antenna needs extra tuning at the low end of the band. Find out just how well that vertical skips over the local area but makes it into western Washington during Sweepstakes. Find that birdie your computer makes on 14.083 that knocks out RTTY signals, then plan ways to improve on that and, *follow through* on that plan.
3. Learn your personal capabilities. Find out that you can't sit in that shack chair for 4 hours straight without back pain. Experience that your headphones make your ears numb from pressure and static. Develop a sense of when you will need a potty break and how to sync that to band lulls. Admit that your CW copy and sending stink and need more practice. And, just like above, plan ways to improve or modify those and follow through.
4. Practice makes perfect. Operate in other contests for just a few hours if you don't have time for the entire thing. Never have your only goal be to win it. Think of the other contests as instances to spot check your improvement plans and evaluate your progress on items 1 through 3. As long as you are going forward, you're doing great. If you have a major or minor setback, just think of it as a learning experience and modify your plans for improvement. NEVER take setbacks as defeat. Thomas Edison had over 1000 'setbacks' before finding the perfect element for the filament of a light bulb. He never called them failures. I think Edison would have made a great contester with that kind of attitude!
5. The basics of contesting are consistent. You will find over time that just about all contests are fundamentally the same. I've been in SS phone, CQ WPX RTTY, and MnQP and Texas QP as CW only, and the setup for my station varies little between them, other than the macros for the exchanges in my logging program and the modes I'm using. And, I'm no 'big gun' either. I have 100 watts into a G5RV at 35 feet, but still operate in contests. And, considering my 'limitations', I think I do pretty well.
6. As others have said, and I will again, be in it to HAVE FUN. This is the most important thing. If you didn't have fun, then DON'T do it. One of the best contests I had recently happened to net the group I was with the first ever EOC category plaque for MiQP. Did everything go as we wished? No. Was it a cake walk with runs hours on end? No. Did we get a whopping huge score? Not at all. But, did we have fun? Heck yeah! This despite the fact that our logging software crashed mid contest, our ethernet connects were flaky, we had to build *2* dipoles prior to the contest start, and I only got to chase mobiles towards the end of the test. The fun can come in many ways, but there *has* to be fun, or it will *always* be torture.

73 es hope to see you on the bands for MiQP. Oh, and HAVE FUN. :)
Randy WF5X

HURRICANE WATCH NET SEEKS MEMBERS

With hurricane season approaching, the various organizations that assist the National Hurricane Center (NHC) <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> in Miami are gearing up for what could be a very active storm season. One organization that assists the NHC is the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) <http://www.hwn.org/>. To better assist the NHC, HWN Manager Dave Lefavour, W7GOX, told the ARRL that the HWN is looking for new members.

"The Hurricane Watch Net relies on volunteer operators – our members – who serve as our net control stations," he said. "HWN members are hams who have above-average stations, are capable of effectively conducting HF net operations and are willing to commit their time to operating in support of the HWN's mission during Net activations. The Net sessions can be long, and, in the recent absence of sunspots, pretty grueling."

Lefavour said that the HWN is looking for new members with stations that can effectively communicate with Central America and the Caribbean, Mexico and South Texas on the 20 meter band. "With the low solar activity, our Assistant Net Manager Brad Pioveson, W9FX, is very interested in finding more members that can help with Net Control Station duties on the low ends of the 40 and 80 meter phone bands,"

Lefavour said, "as we're having to broaden our focus from only operating on 14.325 MHz. During the 2008 hurricanes, 20 meters died after the Sun went down – we no longer had the ability to effectively communicate with reporting stations or the National Hurricane Center. So in preparation for the 2009 hurricane season, we're open to applications from qualified amateurs who are located anywhere within North America or the Caribbean. With propagation having been so unpredictable in the past couple of years, you never know who's going to be able to hear the hurricane-affected area."

Lefavour said that bilingual hams are especially welcome: "We recognize that some Latin American operators hesitate to check in and send reports to us if they aren't fluent in English, so we're also interested in hearing from hams that are fluent in both Spanish and English. When we're working storms that are either affecting or threatening areas where Spanish is the language of choice, we always try to have one or more bilingual HWN members on

hand to help with reporting. Those who have previously applied for HWN membership are encouraged to submit new applications. New applicants are also encouraged to apply."

Lefavour said that the Hurricane Watch Net is generally activated when a named Atlantic basin storm is within 300 miles of landfall. Hurricane season in the Atlantic Ocean runs from June 1-November 30, peaking from late August through September; the Pacific Ocean season runs from May 15-November 30. Of course, hurricanes may occur at any time of the year.

The Tropical Meteorology Project at Colorado State University predicts that the 2009 hurricane season will see above-average activity with 14 named storms and seven hurricanes, three of which will be Category 3 or higher. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines a normal hurricane season as having 9-12 named storms – with 5-7 of those reaching hurricane strength – and 1-3 major hurricanes.

RADIO BADGE . . .

(Continued from page 7)

avenue to introduce Scouts and Scouters to the wonderful world of ham radio. Ham clubs across the nation should locate a local Boy Scout Troop, secure permission from their Scoutmaster and/or committee to teach the merit badge and deliver an exceptional Radio merit badge class. What the boys – and their leaders and parents – will learn in the process is a fair amount of what is part of the Technician license exam, so the next logical step after a merit badge class is an all-out recruiting effort to get that Troop involved in Amateur Radio. They'll meet new friends and have a great way of communicating while in transit to and from the field, as well as additional peace of mind through an effective means of emergency communications while in the backcountry."

Additional information – which includes the new 2009 requirements – can be found on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/24/10667/?nc=1>

AROUND TOWN

4 Apr 2009 ARGYL <http://www.argyl.org>
(Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell)
 Talk-In: 145.27 (LARC repeater) & 146.620 (ARGYL repeater) Contact: Al Eckman, WW8WW
 725 Bowes Road, Apt. K6, Lowell, MI 49331
 Phone: 616-450-4332 Email: al.eckman@sbcglobal.net
 Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes Street, Lowell, MI

18 Apr 2009 **Milford Swap and Shop**
Milford Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk>
 Talk-In: 145.49 (PL 67); 146.52 (backup)
 Contact: Rose Moore, KC8NQJ
 Phone: 810-632-5174
 Milford High School
 2380 South Milford Road, Highland, MI

15-17 May 2009
ARRL National Convention (Dayton Hamvention)
Dayton ARA <http://www.hamvention.org>
 Talk-In: 146.940 Contact: Mike Kalter, W8CI
 Phone: 937-776-7898 Email: w8ci@arrl.net
 Hara Arena, Shiloh Springs Road (Trotwood)
 Dayton, OH

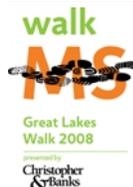
Make sure you get your [Contest Dinner](#) and [DX dinner](#) tickets early before they are sold out. Also the MI-QRP group always makes plans for the weekend.

Our club will not have rooms as there was not enough interest last year but you may find other groups still have rooms.

Don't forget the Ann Arbor bus. Information for the bus is at <http://www.w8pgw.org/node/829>

21 Jun 2009
Monroe County Radio Communications Association
<http://www.mcrcra.org/hamfest.htm>
 Talk-In: 146.72/12 Contact: Fred VanDaele, KA8EBI
 4 Carl Drive, Monroe, MI 48162
 Email: ka8ebi@yahoo.com
 Monroe County Fairgrounds
 3775 South Custer Road
 Monroe, MI

CHARITY WALKS

**Walk MS**

Sunday, May 3, 2008

between 8 AM-10 AM at a new location.

Troy High School

4777 Northfield Parkway, Troy, MI 48098

(just west of Crooks on Long Lake)

They need 36 hams for this walk.

Chairman: Phil AA8KR contact on 586-838-4139 or

aa8kr@arrl.net

**OAK APPLE RUNS**

Saturday May 30, 2008

7:30-11:00 a.m.

Start Line — Main Street, Downtown Royal Oak

Events: 10K Race (7:30a.m.)

2 Mile Fun Run/Walk (9:00a.m.)

1/4 Mile Kids Run (10:00a.m.)

<http://www.oakapplerun.org/pages/OARHome.asp>

Chairman: Mike WD8S contact wd8s@comcast.net

2009 Mid Michigan MS150 Bike Ride July 11 & 12

We are in need of operators to work the 2 day event. The MS150 event is the largest Amateur Radio public service event in South East Michigan. It requires a minimum of 75+ amateurs, to cover some 200+ miles of route, plus rest stops, and some 20+ mobile units each day. Each amateur that participates in the two day event supplies his or her own equipment, mainly consisting of a 25 Watt or greater UHF FM radio, Magnet Mount antenna, cigarette lighter socket Y adapter, and power cords. Food and lodging for Saturday night are provided for by the MS organization. The event starts promptly at 7am Saturday and concludes late Sunday afternoon after the last rider arrives back. The Saturday night entertainment at MSU is a fun time for all.

If you are interested in participating or need any questions answered, please email Fred, W8FSM - fred@moses.bz. We currently have many open assignments for either Saturday, Sunday, and many 2 day assignments as well. To sign up for the event or get more information visit our website @ <http://ms150.moses.bz> 73, Fred - W8FSM fred@moses.bz.

HPARC April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Siren training in place of regular ARPSC meeting	2 ARPSC Net 8 pm 146.900	3	4 Breakfast @ Jimmi's QSO Parties
5 DART Net 9 pm 146.640	6	7 VE Session 7:00 pm	8	9 ARPSC Net 8 pm 146.900	10	11 Breakfast @ Jimmi's QSO Parties
12 DART Net 9 pm 146.640	13	14	15 General Meeting 7 pm	16 ARPSC Net 8 pm 146.900	17	18 Breakfast @ Jimmi's Michigan QSO Party
19 DART Net 9 pm 146.640	20	21 General Class 7pm	22 Board Meeting 7 pm	23 ARPSC Net 8 pm 146.900	24	25 Breakfast @ Jimmi's QSO Parties
26 DART Net 9 pm 146.640	27	28 General Class 7pm	29	30 ARPSC Net Hospital 7:30 Regular 8 pm 146.900		

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2009 DATES

May 13

June 10

TIME

Socializing @7:00 P.M.

Meeting @7:30 P.M.

PLACE

Hoover Elementary

23720 Hoover Ave.

Hazel Park 48030



Locations: 1- Meeting 2- Swap 3- Picnic

We're on the Web

www.hparc.org



Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 368
Hazel Park, MI 48030



Please check mailing label — is your membership about to expire?