

The Zero Beat

THIS MEETING

February 8, 2017
7:30 P.M.
UFCW Hall
876 Horace Brown Dr.
Madison Heights, MI

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GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will be held Wednesday, January 11, at 7:30 PM. Socializing starts around 7:00 PM. The meeting location is UFCW Hall, 876 Horace Brown Dr, Madison Heights. The location is south of 13 Mile Rd, between John R and the I-75 freeway. Turn south at the stoplight at Barrington St, then just before the dead end sign, turn right onto Horace Brown Dr. Enter the building on the east side.

Ken Krause AD8M will present "Get the Most Out of Your Antenna System." Ken will show methods of correcting and improving SWR for improved antenna system efficiency. The talk includes steps to take during initial antenna installation to account for cable reactance and insure true antenna impedance readings. Impedance matching techniques will be shown in theory and practice. Ken will also discuss how to tune and match a vertical antenna.

Come early and visit with fellow hams. Everyone is welcome to come to the meeting and bring a friend along. The coffee will be hot when you arrive. Donuts will be provided during the break.

Anyone wishing to join the club, please go to the club website, www.hparc.org. Fill out the membership form and bring a printed copy to the meeting. Membership forms can also be filled out before the meeting starts.

PRESIDENT'S QRM

Code languages have been a part of secret and not-so-secret societies since the dawn of man. You see them in plain sight, but if you aren't meant a word or a symbol, you'll move along without another thought.

The several stripes of Freemasonry are known for their codes. Even most religions have their share of it. Not many years ago a hobo could hop off a train, and know where we could sleep or grab a bite to eat by hobo markings, and the Yard Warden would be none the wiser.

There's a positive and a negative aspect to code language. In a good way it helps a specific community build its identity. In

many cases it serves practical purposes which we may call "shop talk" or the more dignified "industry parlance".

But there's a negative side to code talk too. It keeps outsiders on the outside, which is fine until you try to grow your ranks. Have you been in a situation, maybe in a work, educational, or religious context where people were speaking English but you didn't know what they were saying?

It's not a great feeling.

I remember my first couple meetings with HPARC, before I got signed up for the tech class. The presenter walked up to the front

(Continued on page 2)

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VOLUNTEERS

- **Technical Coordinator & W8HP Trustee :**
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- **Meeting Coffee & Donuts:**
Brenda White KD8SGB
- **Sunday Net:** Bob N8REL
Lee KD8TBC
Bill N8QVS
- **VUCC/WAS Awards Card Checker:** Sean Fleming
K8KHZ k8khz@arrl.net
- **Banquet:** (Open)
- **Field Day Chair:**
John Teagardin, AA8UU
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- **HPARC Official Cook:**
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Hamfest Chair:** Hugh Boyle
KE8BED (248) 755-6094
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- **Holiday Party:** The Board
- **Oak Apple Run Royal Oak:**
Mike Van Buren WD8S
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QRM, CONT'D

(Continued from page 1)

and for the next 45 minutes I didn't have the first clue what was being said. I can't say I enjoyed it, but it increased my resolve to figure it out.

But not everyone is like me. Sometimes code language is a real hindrance. To some people it communicates that they don't belong. Or even that we don't care that they don't understand.

There's a brilliant series of absurdist children's fiction called *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*. It's a book series, a movie with Jim Carrey, and a new TV Series with Neil Patrick Harris. In it, when a character uses a big word, either the narrator or another character would define the word. It sounds academic, but the way it is done adds character to the story while at the same time teaching younger readers. In other words, they use a code, but also crack it for you.

My point is, you don't need to avoid code speak. Just be aware that your audience may need you to also be the decoder ring. When you speak to newer hams or groups, try to catch yourself when you use ham jargon and make sure your words are understood by providing definition or background. In so doing you'll raise the knowledge of everyone in the hobby, and make newer hams feel more welcome.

Think about it.

73, (That is a code here meaning "goodbye")

Jonathan Devine (JD) KD8VXZ, President
Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

CW CLASS

The Garden City ARC is offering a free Morse Code training class with a goal of 5 WPM proficiency in receiving and sending. The class meets Thursdays at 7 PM for one hour. Although the class started on February 2, the instructor, Fred Rowell AC8LV, is willing to accept latecomers through next week. To sign up, please contact Fred at fritz8028@wowway.com.

H A M R A D I O N E W S

60 Meter Proposal. The ARRL has asked the FCC to create a new, continuous 60 meter band allocation at 5351.5 to 5366.5 KHz. Under the proposal, current 60m channels outside this range would remain, as would a power limit of 100 watts peak ERP.

Parity Act Revived. With the new Congress convened, the Amateur Radio Parity Act has been re-introduced as bill H.R.555. It passed the U.S. House by unanimous consent on January 23, and moves to the U.S. Senate, where it stalled at the end of last year.

Dayton Update. More details are emerging about the upcoming Dayton Hamvention in Xenia, OH. On-site parking will be available on well-drained grass fields just outside the gate. Hamvention has hired professional engineers to ensure that traffic and the flea market setup

go smoothly. Inside exhibits will be scattered across four buildings, with forums being held in two additional buildings. It looks like all food service will be outdoors. The Greene County Fairgrounds are about 30 minutes northeast of downtown Dayton, so most Hamvention attendees will take slightly longer to reach the venue from their hotels.

ARPSC Participation Changes. Members of the Oakland County ARPSC now must meet higher minimum levels of participation and certification. See January meeting minutes at <http://www.arpdc.com/>.

Member License Upgrades. Brenda White KB8SGB and Jim Marek N8KKG have both upgraded to Extra Class. Gary Shannon KE8CQ is now K7TH.

S I R E N N E T R E S U M E S I N M A R C H

It is end of January and it seems more like living on the coast of Maine than in SE Michigan. However, before you know it spring will be here, along with sprint weather: thunderstorms, high winds and tornados. Never fear, the tri-county area has a network of sirens to warn citizens of weather emergencies.

Oakland County siren tests are 3-minute tests at 1 p.m. on the 1st Saturday of March then again in May to November. The April test is held on Wednesday due to it being Weather Awareness Month. HPARC is in charge of verifying operation of each siren in the southeast Oakland County quadrant at least once during the season.

Our area covers all sirens from 8 Mile Rd. to South Blvd. and from Dequindre Rd. to Haggerty Rd. When we finish we are asked to help out those quadrants that still have sirens to check. We ALWAYS finish.

The hams involved are a combination of HPARC and ARPSC members. (ARPSC membership is not required.) All you need is a dual band radio and 45 minutes to an hour on one Saturday a month. Our siren net is normally held on the DART repeater. If you can't make it a particular time, we understand.

Email me at n8fe@arrl.net. Provide your name, call sign, address, phone, first born... sorry, that's another program. The sirens are preassigned so do not "self-deploy" unless

for some reason you happen to be next to a siren and see it while it is going off. Then check in when I call for "Anyone else have a siren to report?"

Happy hamming and Vy 73,
Marsha Fleming N8FE
SE Quadrant Subnet Coordinator
n8fe@arrl.net

D A Y T O N B U S E S

Once again USECA and the ARROW club are chartering buses for one-day trips to the Dayton Hamvention on Saturday, May 20. The USECA bus costs \$55 and leaves at 4 AM from the Wal-Mart parking lot at Van Dyke and 14 Mile Rds. in Sterling Heights. The bus departs the Hamvention site at 5 PM, arriving here around 9 PM. Get a registration form from a USECA board member or contact Ken N8KC at n8kc@arrl.net.

The ARROW club bus leaves at 4 AM from Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor. Cost is \$55 before April 1, \$65 after. The trip includes a continental breakfast and table space in the flea market if desired. For details see <https://www.w8pgw.org/>. Note that both buses sell out quickly.

BUNCH OF QRP

I found this post on eHam from VK4FFAB on November 8, 2016.

The Death Of The Elmer And The Rise Of The Expert

Of late I have found that my zeal for sharing what I have been getting up to in radio has been at an all time low. It's not that I am not excited about what I am doing. I am having a wonderful time doing radio, it's that there seems to be little point sharing on social media or forums. I am not alone in this either, with many people that I speak with similarly disillusioned and are dropping out entirely.

And why are we dropping out? Simply, there are too many Experts and not enough Elmers. What's the difference you may ask? Well, the point of the Elmer is to encourage you to continue, to go further and to keep trying. While the expert is all about stroking his own ego so we all know who has the biggest.

The prime example of this attitude is Homebrew. Someone will post a rather cool project they put their heart and soul into building and after 1000 views the post might garner 4 or 5 comments and typically the comments are not very relevant to the project.

But, if someone asks "What Resistor Should I Use" you will have Mom, Dad, The Kids, Aunties, Uncles, Second Cousins and a few Twice Removed's banging on for 10 pages whether to use 1/4w, 1/8w, 5%, 10%, etc, stroking each others' egos along with plenty of, "back in my day when I worked for the military industrial complex..."

Every expert under the sun and anyone with an opinion

crawls out from under their proverbial rocks to show just how expert they are, and tell us how expert they used to be. And this attitude is typical of just about every topic group there is, people who share their achievements and accomplishments, their posts will gain no traction while the controversial and utterly stupid posts will go viral.

Have we really come so far in radio that the best we have to offer is argument about trivialities? If not, how about more comments like "Thanks for sharing." "Keep at it." "Atta boy." And perhaps then, people will start sharing again because there are more Elmer's and fewer experts.

I found this view intriguing and shedding a lot of light on a common problem facing clubs now! A good wake-up call and food for thought. The decline in club activities across the states is alarming and it is time to rethink "why"!

The question, now, is this - What are you going to do about it?

72/73

Phillip N8AYE

FEBRUARY CONTESTS

February 2017

3-5 YLRL YL-OM Contest
 4 Minnesota QSO Party
 4-5 10-10 Winter Contest, SSB
 4-5 Vermont QSO Party
 4-5 British Columbia QSO Party
 5 North American Sprint, CW
 11-12 CQ WPX Contest, RTTY
 13-17 ARRL School Club Roundup
 18-19 ARRL DX Contest, CW
 24-26 CQ 160 Meter Contest, CW
 25-26 South Carolina QSO Party
 25-26 North American QSO Party, RTTY
 26-27 North Carolina QSO Party

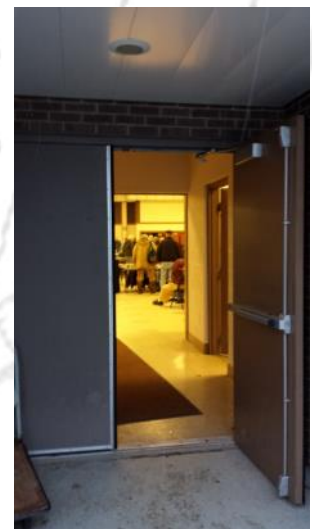
March 2017

4-5 ARRL DX Contest, SSB

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Mauterer KE8FSF
 Mike Cononie KE8CEH
 Ken Barnes N8COQ

HAZEL PARK SWAP PICTURES



Thanks to all hamfest volunteers! Photos: Bottom left, Reuven Gevaryahu KB3EHW; others, Wes Plouff AC8JF.

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by President, JD KD8VXZ.

Pledge of allegiance said

New ham/Members: Paul Mauterer Tech, Mike Cononie KE8CEH General, and Ken Barnes N8COQ Extra (returning member)

Introductions were made

Jay WB8SBI made the club members aware of changes to the requirements for membership in ARPSC. The details of those changes can be found in their minutes:

<http://www.arpdc.com/minutes/Minutes010417.pdf>

Presentation by John AA8UU on propagation prediction websites and resources

Coffee and Donuts

Treasurer's report: BOB W8REL- Spent \$200 on the Holiday party, will be higher since some invoices are still needed. We got \$500 in dues of \$180, rest is swap pre-sales.. Bank Account balance is \$10,490, the swap will improve on that.

Question- Will we provide free club tables for other clubs at the swap? Hugh KE8BED- yes

Swap update - Hugh KE8BED- 50+ tables sold, new mail that came in not counted yet. Please sign up to help!

New Student taking tech class, Phil, rooting for him.

Wes AC8JF - Has 3 copies of Morse code trainer CD, talk after meeting if you want one of them

Contesting - Mike WD8S - NAQP CW is this weekend.

Education update - Jerry W9NPI- 6 or 7 people taking technician class (some last minute signups), 4 in general class (Monday was the first class). We will have a VE session at swap, and the regularly scheduled Feb 7th VE session.

Brenda KD8SGB upgraded license class to Extra.

M2M-Jerry W9NPI for John AA8UU- Coronal hole might explain 80 and 40 being horrible lately, but this morning was quiet.

John answered some additional questions about propagation

Discussion of attic antenna versus beam- consensus is that an attic antenna can work.

Reuven KB3EHW demonstrated VOACAP website for propagation prediction.

Meeting adjourned 9:02

Raffle of dual-band System Fusion radio - Marsha N8FE won the radio

Respectfully Submitted,

Reuven Gevaryahu KB3EHW, HPARC Secretary

OAKALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Oakland County will now be offering the OakAlert system to anyone interested in receiving an email and/or text message with warnings and updates regarding emergency situations in Oakland County. The system is completely voluntary and allows for specific messages to be sent to your email address and/or cell phone during an event.

Notifications of emergencies, disasters or hazardous situations that would require immediate action will use email and/or text messaging to the devices registered online. Due to the type of messages that will be sent through the system, they are likely to be infrequent and will only be used as needed.

Messages will be limited to:

- Imminent or perceived threats to life or property
- Disaster notifications
- Evacuation notices
- Public Health emergencies
- Public Safety emergencies

Oakland County Homeland Security Division 24/7 on-call staff will be sending these messages as needed. To learn more about the OakAlert system, including the registration page, go to www.oakgov.com/homelandsecurity.

HPARC NETS

HPARC Official Sunday Night 2-meter Phone Net

Every Sunday at 9:00 PM local time on the DART repeater, 146.64 (PL 100), catch up on club news and information, and just to keep in touch. All amateurs are welcome to check in.

Thursday Night Youth Net, 8 PM EST on the DART repeater, via Echolink *759629 (W5DDL-R).

Yacht Net, Saturday night, 8 PM EST. A youth net on the DART repeater, via Echolink *481872 (W8PIF-R).
Homepage: <http://yachthams.webstarts.com>

N8WYO CW net (Medium speed)

Named in memory of Al N8WYO. The net meets Tuesday night at 8:00 PM on **28.028 MHz** All amateurs are welcome. CW speed fluctuates between 20-25 WPM, but Joe will slow it down if necessary. Listen in at 8 PM sharp!

Wolverine Net

The 75 Meter Wolverine Net meets on 3935 KHz daily at 7:00 PM local time, with pre-net starting at 6:00 PM. You can get details from <http://www.wssbn.com/>

Oakland County ARPSC

Every Thursday @ 8 pm on 146.90 (PL 100). Hospital Radio Net on the last Thursday of each month @7:30. (W8OAK-3 will run packet on 147.56 MHz for those wanting to practice and test their equipment)
<http://www.arpac.com/>

NTS Traffic Nets

The Southeast Michigan National Traffic System (NTS) net Normally held every night at 10:15 PM local time on the 146.76 (PL 100)

AROUND TOWN

HPARC Buddy Breakfast every Saturday @ 9:00 AM (or so)

Jimi's Restaurant, 714 South Washington Ave, Royal Oak (across from OCC). Come for the socializing – we're in the back room. Parking: lots of spaces in Jimi's parking lot, and street parking is free until 11 AM.

Oakland Co. ARPSC Siren Testing, 1st Saturday @ 1 PM

March through November except in April, when it is held the second Wednesday at 1 PM. Contact **Marsha N8FE** at n8fe@arr.net to be assigned a siren to test.

Amateur Radio License Testing

HPARC and the City of Oak Park offer amateur radio license testing on the **first Tuesday of even months** at the **Oak Park, Michigan Community Center** (14300 Oak Park Blvd, Oak Park, MI 48237) beginning at 7:00 PM. Contact Jerry W9NPI at w9npi@arrl.net

HAMFESTS

2/11/2017 Cherryland Swap-N-Shop 8-12

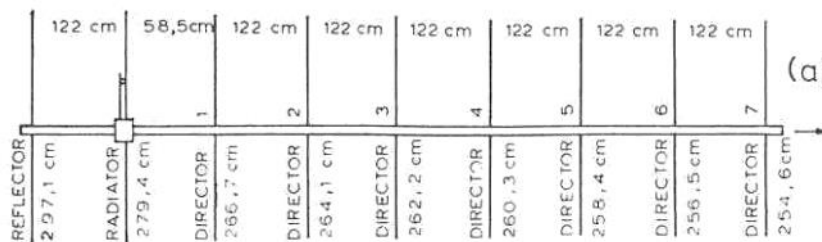
Immaculate Conception Elementary School
218 Vine St, Traverse City
<http://cherrylandarc.com/>
Talk-in: 146.86 (PL 114.8)

2/19/2017 Livonia Swap & Shop 8-12

Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Rd (corner of 5 Mile), Livonia
<http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop>
Talk-in: 145.35 (PL 100) or 146.52

Upcoming:

3/18 Crossroads Hamfest, Kalamazoo
3/19 TMRA Hamfest, Perrysburg (Toledo), OH



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2017 Meetings

- February 8
- March 8
- April 12
- May 10

TIME

Socializing @ 7:00 PM
Meeting @ 7:30 PM

PLACE

UFCW Hall
876 Horace Brown Dr.
Madison Heights 48071



Meeting and Swap location



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



Scan this QR code to visit the HPARC web site

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