



# The Zero Beat

## THIS MEETING

**November 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, November 8, at 7:30 PM. Socializing starts around 7:00 PM. Meetings take place at 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. Turn left into the first parking lot. Enter the building on the east side.

Wes Plouff AC8JF will present "Building an HF Station for \$500." With careful shopping, hams can put together a complete, reliable SSB/CW HF station on a limited budget, \$500 or a little more. Wes will discuss what equipment is needed, which used transceivers to look for, and how to buy a used transceiver with the least amount of risk. He will also report on street prices for specific models. Wes is a retired software engineer and current editor of the HPARC Zero Beat newsletter.

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](http://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

Let me start by telling a story. Long before I was involved in amateur radio I was a Civil War reenactor. You know, those guys who dress in wool and march around on hot days with black powder muskets pretending it's 1863.

One day we had an eager pair of new recruits, full of energy, looking for something to do. They asked the Captain what they could occupy their time with, to which he jokingly replied, "go take some prisoners."

The new recruits didn't sense the joke. They didn't know that taking prisoners was not a regular part of the hobby. But guess what they did?

An hour or so later they came marching into the camp, with two very confused enemy soldiers held at musket point. The leadership was shocked. "What is going on here?" the Captain demanded. The new privates were confused. "You told us to go take some prisoners."

*(Continued on page 2)*

## OFFICERS

- **President:** Jonathan  
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## VOLUNTEERS

- **Technical Coordinator & W8HP Trustee :**  
Joe Raznik WB2ADX  
[Joe.Raznik@nbcuni.com](mailto:Joe.Raznik@nbcuni.com)
- **W8JXU Trustee:**  
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Education/VE Testing:**  
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Marsha Fleming N8FE  
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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](mailto:k8khz@arrl.net)
- **Banquet:** (Open)
- **Field Day Chair:**  
John Teagardin, AA8UU  
[aa8uu@arrl.net](mailto:aa8uu@arrl.net)
- **HPARC Official Cook:**  
Bill Ketel N8QVS
- **Hamfest Chair:** Hugh Boyle  
KE8BED (248) 755-6094  
[HazelParkSwap@gmail.com](mailto:HazelParkSwap@gmail.com)
- **Holiday Party:** The Board
- **Oak Apple Run Royal Oak:**  
Mike Van Buren WD8S  
[wd8s@arrl.net](mailto:wd8s@arrl.net)

## QRM, CONT'D

*(Continued from page 1)*

They then relayed the story, that they snuck through the woods near the enemy camp, found two enemy soldiers who had gone into the woods to relieve their bladders, and took them prisoner.

The prisoners were released with an apology, but the new recruits weren't in any trouble. First of all, they honestly thought they were following orders. Second of all, and this is very important: everyone had fun.

In that organization, just as in ours, **initiative is the life of the club.**

Whether you are new to the club, or you're an old hand, your initiative as a member is what makes this club interesting, memorable, something that lives and grows. The board and our committees keep the wheels of the machine, but it's everyone else who has the special ability to shake things up in a good way.

So maybe don't grab a musket and take some prisoners, but think about how you can make this hobby more interesting for you and everyone else. Then do it. We're here to help.

## Help Wanted

New *Zero Beat* editor urgently needed. Job requires writing ability and willingness to twist arms for content. Knowledge of Microsoft Publisher helpful. Takes about ten hours a month. On-the-job training available.

Interested? Call Wes Plouff AC8JF at (248) 420-9712.

## NEW HPARC CLUB LOGO



The old club logo, left, and the new logo, right, designed by Jonathan Devine KD8VXZ, and adopted October 2017.

## ARRL SWEEPSTAKES

The ARRL November CW and SSB Sweepstakes are coming up. In this contest you may operate a maximum of 24 hours out of 30 hours. The exchange is serial number, precedence, call sign, check and ARRL section.

The CW Sweepstakes is Nov 4-6, 2017 - 2100 UTC Saturday to 0259 Monday.

The SSB Sweepstakes is Nov 18-20, 2017 - 2100 UTC Saturday to 0259 Monday.

There is more contest information in the October issue of *QST* on page 96. The contest rules and details can be found on the ARRL web page [www.arrl.org/sweepstakes](http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes).

If you complete 100 contacts or complete a Clean Sweep, the HPARC will recognize your accomplishment with a pin for at least 100 contacts or a mug for the Clean

Sweep of all ARRL and RAC sections.

If you are interested in this recognition sponsored by the HPARC, you will need to submit your log summaries via email to [aa8ik@arrl.net](mailto:aa8ik@arrl.net) by the ARRL log submission deadlines, which are 5 days after end of contest:

For CW entries the deadline is Nov 11, 2017

For SSB entries the deadline is Nov 25, 2017

If you submit an electronic log to ARRL, email to [aa8ik@arrl.net](mailto:aa8ik@arrl.net) a copy of the first page of your Cabrillo file. If you submit a paper log to ARRL, email to [aa8ik@arrl.net](mailto:aa8ik@arrl.net) a copy of your summary sheet.

Good Luck in the ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest

- David Koch AA8IK

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## H A M F E S T S

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**11/18-19/2017 Fort Wayne Hamfest 9-4, 9-2**

Allen Co. War Memorial, 4000 Parnell Ave, Fort Wayne, IN  
(about 3 hours from Hazel Park)

<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/>

Talk-in: 146.88

**12/03/2017 LCARC Swap & Shop 8-12**

UFCW Hall, 876 Horace Brown Dr, Madison Heights

[http://www.qsl.net/n8lc/swap\\_flyer\\_2017.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/n8lc/swap_flyer_2017.pdf)

Talk-in: 147.08 (PL 100)

**Upcoming:**

**1/28/18 Hazel Park Hamfest**

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## C O N T E S T S

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**November 2017**

4-5 ARRL EME Contest

4-5 Ukrainian DX Contest

**4-6 ARRL Sweepstakes, CW**

11-12 WAE DX Contest, RTTY

11-12 10-10 Fall Contest, digital

11-12 Kentucky QSO Party

**18-20 ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB**

**25-26 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW**

**December 2017**

**1-3 ARRL 160 Meter Contest**

## A R O U N D T O W N

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

**Star Family Dining**, *new location!*, 26623 John R Rd, Madison Heights, one block south of 11 Mile Rd. Come for the socializing – we're likely to be at the big tables in the back. Park in the restaurant parking lot.

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

**March through November** except in April. Contact **Marsha N8FE** at [n8fe@arr.net](mailto: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-numbered 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](mailto:w9npi@arrl.net)

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## N E T S

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**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.

**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.arpsc.com/>



## A HOMEBREW FAN DIPOLE

*By Ken Krause AD8M*

Here is how to build a home-brew multiband antenna using no traps, the fan dipole.

A fan dipole is actually 3 wire dipoles all fed with a common coax line. Once properly tuned this antenna offers the advantage of 3 resonant antennas covering 40, 20 and 10 meters without the use of an antenna tuner. 15 meters is a direct harmonic of 40 meters and thus that band operates very well with any transmitter with an internal antenna tuner, as do 12 meters and 17 meters.

I built my first fan dipole in 2003 using solid copper wire. Unfortunately it stretched in the wind over the years forcing me to build one with copper clad. That one has stood the test of time.

Each time I built one, I had help from other hams who also wanted to build their own. Reciprocating their help I gained construction experience and improved my methods.

Each ham who hung their fan dipole returned with comments, probably biased, that they loved its performance and the simplicity of jumping bands without tuning. By the way, for contests this is the way to go because the bandwidth is so broad. As you approach the edge of the band the

SWR will rise but not above 3:1. A transmitter's internal antenna tuner will easily bring the SWR to 1:1.5.

To be fair, I should mention the downside. Well, there is no electrical downside, but mechanically this antenna offers some challenges. It is a clumsy antenna to work with on the ground, snarling and crossing lines. It is also a difficult antenna to transport. Take my recommendation: build it on site.

Once the antenna is flying it displays aesthetic character and well outperforms multi band antennas which necessitate an extra tuner.

### MATERIALS:

Many places carry #16 AWG copper-clad wire. I order online. One site with good prices is The Wireman, item #504.

Fiberglass "snow sticks" are required. They come in two colors, yellow and orange. I suggest yellow for stealth.

The cord mentioned is just basic parachute cord, available from Joe's Army Navy Surplus on Woodward Ave. in Royal Oak.



*The antenna under construction.*

## FAN DIPOLE, CONT'D

### CONSTRUCTION:

Rather than working on the ground, put up 2 supports about 8 to 10 feet high and string a strong and very tight rope between them. I suggest 10 foot 2x4's and a rope.

Hang the Balun in the middle.

String the 40 Meter wires first. Do both sides and leave some extra for tuning.

Install Supports A,B X,Y and Z. String the 20 Meter wires followed by the 10 Meter. Make up the distance from the end insulators to the supports with cord.

Tune the 40 meter dipole first, followed by the 20 meter, and the 10 meter last.

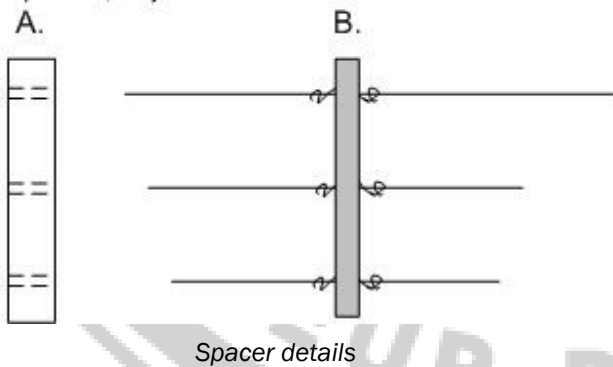
Tuning can be done from the temporary hanging position. It is best to tune near the center of the band or near your operation preferences. To lengthen the antenna the pigtail can be folded back over the insulator in line with the antenna.

Prior to hanging the antenna at full height, remove the overhead rope and support for the balun.

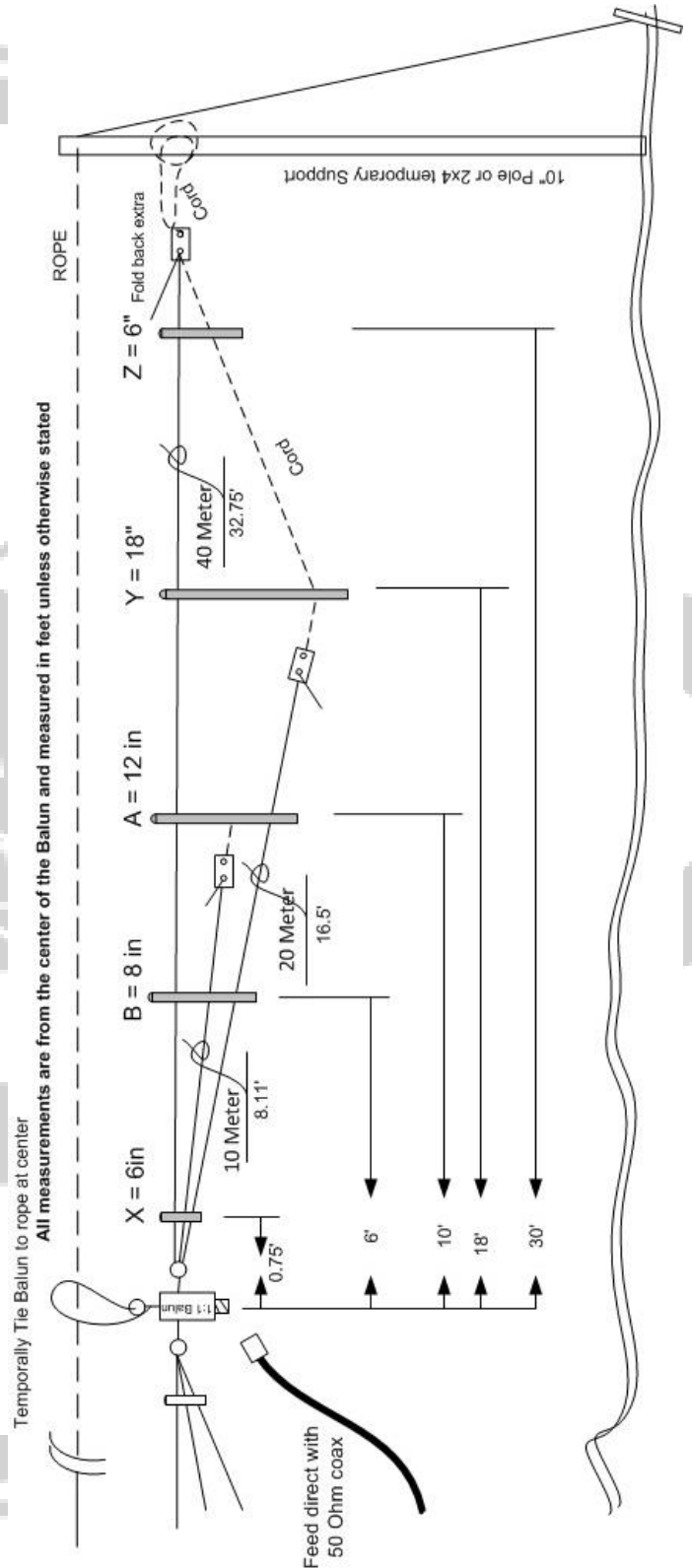
### NOTE:

A. Drill holes in the fiberglass snow sticks for #14 AWG wire to slide through. Mark and drill where needed. As the span grows larger the dimensions will change.

B. Slip bare #14 copper wire through the holes and wrap around the dipole wires to secure in place. Once in position, they can be soldered if so desired.



Right, antenna dimensions, showing one side. Build the identical configuration on the other side of center.





## OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:34 by President JD KD8VXZ.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members and visitors introduced themselves.

Welcomed visitor KD8UA and returning member Steve Gladstein N8FH.

No new members.

Mike WD8S stood up to dispel the rumor that he is leaving town and the hobby.

Steve N8FH gave his impressions of Great Lakes HamCon - a promising start and much potential for future years. About eight members raised their hands as attending GLHC.

Pete Matejcik AA8GK presented an introduction to Yaesu System Fusion. This digital FM mode carries both voice and data. Pete feels it has more "intuitive" radio operation than D-Star and other digital modes. Yaesu primed the market by selling repeaters for as low as \$500. Currently Michigan has 43 Fusion repeaters including W8HP. Some Fusion repeaters connect via audio interface to repeaters running other modes. Equipment runs \$169-309.

Gary K7TH offered to let members try System Fusion via his Zombie Alert Network repeater, recommends ZAN Facebook page.

Hugh KE8BED announced he had Hazel Park Swap

tickets for sale.

Break for coffee and donuts at 8:14

Meeting resumed at 8:31. The entire business meeting was taken up discussing the new club logo. JD presented it as being the club "brand," the first impression many hams would get about us. Discussion of colors - maroon and gray were chosen years ago to match the Hazel Park High School colors. Suggestion: put a gray logo on maroon club jackets. Several members pushed to get new club shirts before the swap in January. By consensus, members were willing to pay a little more for American-made clothing.

Mike McClain AB8ZE moved to accept the new logo, John Little W8TOY seconded. Motion was approved.

David Koch AA8IK announced he will be awarding ARRL Sweepstakes pins and Clean Sweep mugs. Sweepstakes contest is November 4-6 CW and 18-20 SSB.

JD asked for volunteers for Swap assistant organizer and Newsletter editor.

Meeting adjourned 8:59.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wes Plouff AC8JF



NOVEMBER  
2017  
MEMBER

**2017 Meetings**

November 8  
December 13

**2018 Meetings**

January 10  
February 14

**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?