



# Zero Beat

April 2021

**General Meeting**  
**Wednesday April 2021**  
**7:30 pm on Zoom**  
**With Socializing**  
**At 7:00 pm**

## The President's QTX April 2021

Nominations for the HPARC Board of Directors have been submitted and the candidates on this year's ballot are off and running. One of the most significant things you can do for the club is to support the candidates who best represent your views on how the Board of Directors can best serve our membership by voting in the upcoming election. While doing so, it's helpful to consider the qualities you believe are necessary for leading our club in a forward moving direction by promoting friendship and sharing a common interest in the art and science of radio communications.

Being friendly and courteous to new commers and long time members alike goes a long way toward bringing the club together. Board members who are intouch with the interests of our membership, the state of the hobby, appreciate both legacy technologies and cutting edge advances in radio are all important for maintaining an even balance of leadership.

Service through Education is the club's motto. So consider the Club's instructors or those who have devoted time to study for the General or Extra Class license exams showing the commitment they have to the hobby. Be it a focus on On-Air operating or Techincal expertese, aloting time to prepare for the rigouereous license exams is a sure sign of a person's commitment to Amateur Radio.

The amount of Air Time is a good indicator of operating skill and perseverance toward accomplishing both long and short term goals. Be it DXing, Contesting or Rag Chewing our club is about mentoring each other on how to be better citizens of the Amateur Radio Community. Sharing knowledge about things like pulling weak signals out of the noise floor from those saught after QSO's is a skill that can be more easily be mastered when mentors work hand in hand with members.

Finally, Board Members who are self-motaved serve the interests of the club in a number of important ways. Ideally, people who are prone to looking around to see what needs to be done then organizing a group to do it and sticking

## Club Officers

**President** Joe WB8ADX  
 joeraznik@gmail.com

**1st. VP** Jim K8ABZ  
 k8abz@arrl.net

**2nd. VP** Aaron W8VIP  
 tobin292@gmail.com

**Secretary** Reuven KB3EHW  
 rgevaryahu@gmail.com

**Treasurer** Bob N8REL  
 rlau6@aol.com

**Parliamentarian** Marvin N8HZM  
 marvstasak@gmail.com

**Director** Bill N8QVS  
 n8qvs@arrl.net

with it all the way though to completion make ideal Board Members. This can-do attitude can propel the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club in a direction that increases the number of club activities, promote an environment of lifelong learning and provide momentum for growing the membership.

So before you fill out your ballot, take a few minutes to learn about the candidates running for office. Articles by each candidate appear in a special edition of our newsletter The Zero Beat, on the HPARC.ORG webpage or get to know who's who during Monthly Member Meetings or at the weekly Saturday Morning Breakfast. Participating in the election process by casting your ballot in an informed and thoughtful manner brings the satisfaction of knowing that you have contributed to help guide the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club back on track after an unprecedented year of social distancing.

Joe Raznik WB8ADX

## Be Your Own Radio Shack... Because You Have To.

Chris Warren March 19, 2021

### The halcyon days.

As early as middle school, before I was a ham and still into CB radio, Radio Shack was my haven. They had pretty much anything a teenaged electronics experimenter and ham could ever want. With thousands of locations, they were everywhere. I know I'm dating myself but I doubt anyone under the age of forty has ever set foot in a Radio Shack. RS still exists as a timid spirit through an [e-commerce website](#) and few holdout brick-and-mortar dealers with limited stock. The glory days of being able to run out and pick up a 2N2222 transistor at 3:00pm on a Sunday are far behind us. Now that the go-to place for all things electronics is distant nostalgia, we are in a time when radio amateurs need to be their own source for off grid supplies.

### Thinning the hoard.

When you've been a ham for as long as I have, you tend to have a large "collection" of stuff. That's not necessarily a good thing. Some hams take pride in their mountain of radio-related minutiae. But the thoughtful ham will

keep a supply of only what they truly need; having a big hoard just for the sake of having it doesn't get one anywhere.



Photo courtesy of e-radionica.com

So how do we decide what makes the cut? For starters, evaluate your equipment. What plugs, connectors, fuses, and other parts would you need to keep your gear running? Second, think to the future. Do you have any plans to expand or change your off grid radio station? Lastly, plan for others. Planning for others means keeping supplies to be used for someone else's equipment. This is where things can get away from you. You want to be helpful to others but you likely cannot (or should not) be the de facto Radio Shack for every ham in your ZIP code!

Survivalist/prepper amateurs planning for [SHTF](#) are especially prone to unwarranted stockpiling of radio and off grid gear. A good rule to follow is anything that does not have an explicit, defined purpose should not be kept around. Do not gather random stuff "just in case." At that point you're no longer a disciplined, contemplative amateur. You're just some obsessive crank amassing junk.

### Making your shopping list.

In addition to any proprietary plugs and connectors for your equipment, you'll also want a supply of generic items that every amateur will need. For example, heat shrink tube, connectors, fuses, spade lugs, nylon ties, and on and on. Also important are materials for making antennas, such as wire, coax, baluns, ununs, etc.

This of course is a partial list. Regarding antenna materials, you have my permission to collect a little more than what might be considered normal. Since antennas are outdoors and are frequently damaged by weather, it's not unreasonable to expect a high turnover. Furthermore, you should have the resources to construct different designs of antennas and not depend on one type all the time.

### **Help thy neighbor.**

Part of your plan should be to keep extra supplies for others to use. You never know when a buddy is going to need a connector or a length of wire. While you don't owe it to them, it's a nice gesture that may pay off later. You may someday find yourself short and need a hand too. Karma is real. Just sayin'.

If you are a survivalist/prepper, then your motivations for keeping extra radio stuff is a little less altruistic. In a true long term SHTF situation, electronics parts and supplies can be used as barter. When things go bad, connectors, plugs, coax, and all the extras that make radio possible will be a form of currency. We all hope it never gets to that point, but as the cliché says, it's better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it.

To be clear, none of these strategies are a reason to collect a massive pile. The entire purpose of this project is to have a good supply of what you need without it becoming a pointless mass of stuff you'll never use.

### **Double duty.**

As an off grid ham, you bear an extra burden that grid-based hams do not have. Not only do you need enough parts to maintain your radio gear, you also must have resources to keep your off grid power source on line too. Solar panels, charge controllers, batteries, generators, all the stuff that makes your radio go, needs upkeep. Use the same strategy we just discussed. Keep a reasonable supply of what you genuinely need, and maybe a little more to give/barter away. There is a bit of a problem. Keeping a stockpile of solar panels or gas generators is an unrealistic goal. If you have quality gear that will last over the long haul then this problem should theoretically take

care of itself. You can buy six cheap Harbor Freight generators or one Honda. Trust me...that Honda will still be cranking out watts decades after all six Harbor Freight machines have gone to the junkyard.

### **How to get there from here.**

If you are a long established ham, you likely already have a large parts inventory and may even need to get rid of some things. If you are new to this game, you may feel unprepared. For the newcomers, it's probably a bad idea to go on a shopping spree and try to catch up quickly. The better route is to buy more than you need, as you need it. If you are working on a project that requires one DC barrel plug, buy a pack of five. You'll have one for your project and four spares. Over time, you'll build up an inventory. Like us long timers, you'll reach a point where you can build a project without buying any new parts because you already have everything in your private stock. Replace the items as you use them, but do not let things get out of hand.

### **Organization.**

Where and how to keep your stash is a very difficult question to answer. Organization is a very individual thing, and most of us are very territorial about it. Everyone has their own system and resist any attempts to change it.

My dad is a super-handyman. I mean this dude does everything, and does it well. He's got an entire barn full of tools and lumber and hardware. He's his own Home Depot...literally. When I go into that barn, especially the loft, I'm completely out of my element. There is stuff everywhere.

Boxes, bags, plastic totes, glass jars, coffee cans, all sorts of containers filled with a lifetime of home improvement leftovers. There is no obvious order to the place, at least not to me. But dad has a firm grasp on it. If I ask him for, say, a 20 amp outlet, he has no hesitation and knows exactly where they are.

Over the years I've suggested that maybe he should better organize his stuff. As you can guess, that idea is always strongly rebuffed. His "system", such as it is, works for him and he's absolutely not going let anyone tell him what to do with his barn. Even my mom doesn't have veto

power within the walls of that place. My point is, whatever form of organization that works for you is the “right” one. Some people like to have everything neatly arranged in labelled plastic bins. Others, like my dad, just kind of wing it. Whatever your style is, make sure it’s workable. Constantly having to search for things or not even knowing what you have is a red flag that you have too much stuff.

### Next steps.

The days of running to Radio Shack for any little thing are not coming back. Ordering online is an option, but even with next-day shipping it may present an unacceptable delay for your project. And if SHTF, there will be no Amazon truck arriving to save you. You can’t stock everything, but you can keep enough odds and ends around to solve most of your problems and keep your radio on the air.

## 2021-03-10 HPARC general meeting on Zoom

Meeting called to order by President Joe WB8ADX  
Agenda shown

Pledge of allegiance

Presentation from Dale Williams WA8EFK, ARRL Great Lakes Division director

The election committee met a few days ago planning club elections, timeline shown on screen.

Will do a survey about return to normal; availability of vaccines is likely to go up and at some point this summer things will likely be close to back to normal.

Dart Repeater- we need a new West receive site and a new South receive site. The south site was sold; the West Site building needs renovation and has no power. We are looking for areas around South Lyon or so for the West site.

Website- We are looking to refresh the website, as well as allow for online payment of dues. Online secure posting of the club roster. We’d also like to post meeting recordings online.

Website- We are looking to refresh the website, as well as allow for online payment of dues. Online secure posting of the club roster. We’d also like to post meeting recordings online.

## April 2021 Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club Zero Beat

Education report - Jerry W9NPI - the initial group of technician students dropped somewhat. 2 students are here for the meeting. The next technician class will start in September. Extra class is around 15 students. Ken AD8M invites others to join the extra class.

Bob N8REL Treasurer- Next year’s Budget will have a picnic and in-person meetings starting this summer, and a SWAP in January 2022!

Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm  
Respectfully submitted,  
Reuven Gevanyahu KB3EHW  
HPARC Secretary

### ARRL Michigan QSO Party

**Object:** For amateurs outside the state of Michigan to make contact with as many Michigan stations as possible. Non-Michigan stations may work only Michigan stations, while Michigan stations may contact anyone.

**Contest Period:** The Michigan QSO Party (MiQP) occurs on the Saturday of the third full weekend in April. For 2021, the contest starts on Saturday, April 17, 2021. The contest period runs from 1200 EDST to 2400 EDST (16Z Saturday until 04Z Sunday UTC). All stations may operate the full twelve hours.

**Bands and Modes:** CW and SSB on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. Stations may be worked once per band and mode; i.e., K8MQP may be worked on both 40 CW and 40 SSB for QSO points credit.

### The following certificates will be awarded:

The top single-operator score in each Michigan county making at least 50 QSOs.

The 2nd and 3rd place scores in the Michigan multi-single, multi-multi, EOC, mobile-solo and mobile-multi categories

The top Club Competition score (in-state and out-of-state).



## Chairmen

Repeater	Joe WB8ADX
W8JXU Trustee	Bill N8QVS
Swap	John KD8NYF
Field Day	John AA8UU
Education	Jerry W9NPI
Sunday Net	Bob N8REL
Zero Beat Editor	Rick KB5OO
Public Information Officer (PIO)	Rick KB5OO
Webmaster	Mike K8WU
Banquet	John W8TOY
Club Picnic	Jay WB8SBI

## HPARC Nets

### HPARC Official Sunday Night 2-meter Phone Net

Every Sunday a 9:00 Pm local time on the DART repeater, 146.64 (PL 1 00), catch up on club news and information, and just to keep in touch. All amateurs are welcome to check in.

### ARPSC Thursday Night 2-meter phone net

Every Thursday at 8:00 PM on the W8OAK repeater, 146.90 (PL 100). The Hospital radio check net has been suspended due to the corona virus. <http://www.arpdc.com>

## Around Town

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

Cozy Cabin Diner, 2129 E. 12 Mile Rd, Warren, MI Come in early for the socializing. Park in the restaurant parking lot.

## Volunteers

LoTW Manager	Murray KE8UM
Refreshments	Brenda N8AQ
Club Cook	Bill N8QVS
Holiday Meeting	Board of Directors
Equipment Inventory	Jim K8ABZ
Audio/Video Specialist	Ken KE8LIG
Lark in the Park	John AA8UU
Meeting Greeter	OPEN
Net Control Operators	Lee KD8TBC John W8TOY Mike K8WU Bob N8REL
HPARC Media Dream Team	Hugh KE8BED Rick KB5OO Al K8ALH John AA8UU Mike K8WU Jim K8ABZ John W8TOY

### Oakland County ARPSC Siren Testing, 1st Saturday at 1:00 PM.

March through November. Contact Marsha, N8FE, at [n8fe@arri.net](mailto:n8fe@arri.net), to volunteer and be assigned a siren to test.

### Amateur Radio Licensing Testing

Testing is currently on hold until the covid pandemic is over and we can get back to normal

### Quote of the day

If you want to make contacts, you have to make noise.

**Mike K8WU**