

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

SPARK for AUGUST 2003

President's Page

Please come to the August Meeting. We will be back at the White Pines Middle School. Please come to the fox hunt on Saturday Sept 5, even if you don't make the fox hunt come to the 4 PM picnic afterwards held at the William Ferry Park in Ferrysburg.

This Thursday the newly College graduated Club President will be present at the NOARC meeting. (now there's something to show up for). The NOARC in cooperation with Lou Meisch N8KYO presents! The Mystery Antenna!

Yes, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls and all antenna enthusiast of every age from every walk of life you are about to witness at the next NOARC meeting the skilled hand of Mister Antenna himself the one the only Lou N8KYO! Master Antennist At this great event Lou will attempt to build and present to you the Mystery Antenna and this will be done without the use of a net.

If you dare you may attempt this yourself. You will need 70 feet of antenna building wire 35 feet of RG8x coax a insulator in the center 35 feet of ladder feed line or heavy duty Radio Shack 300 ohm TV antenna wire a skilled hand basic assembly tools a soldier gun and soldier and nerves of steel. Bring it along and build along with Lou.

Lou has mastered the skills of antenna building and antenna installation with intense home training and coaching from fellow Ham Radio Operators. Also he has done so much with so little for so long he is now qualified to anything with nothing.

Also at this Great event bring along your swappable excess gear for a mini swap. These swap meets have always worked out great in the past.

After the 50/50 raffle this Thursday everyone that would need a all band HF antenna will have the opportunity to win the Mystery Antenna built by the Antenna Master by a separate drawing.

So there you have it, the opportunity to learn something, build something, sell something, buy something, and yes even win something all within a couple of hours. So see you Thursday at the White Pines Middle School around seven PM.

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Treasurer's Report Account Status as of July 20, 2003:

Beginning Balance of all accounts was \$5637.13, of which checking and savings totaled \$4898.45, and the NOARC endowment fund balance of \$738.68

Income for the period: \$.99 which was interest on savings.

Expenses for the period: \$243.00; Of which \$90.00 was paid to Gene Camfield, KB8ODC, for Te-Ne-Ke-bases; \$128.00 reimbursement to Phyllis Simmons, KB8NLN, for food/drinks/etc. for Field Day; \$25.00 Reimbursement to Greg Schippers, KC8HXO, for Gasoline, and Ice for Field Day.

Ending balance of all accounts: \$5482.40 of which checking and savings total \$4656.44, and the NOARC endowment fund total balance is \$825.96

Please note the chart below represents the status of all club funds at the end of the period:

General Fund: \$4381.44
Repeater Fund: \$0
Digital Fund: \$275.00
Endowment Fund \$825.96

Total all funds \$5482.40

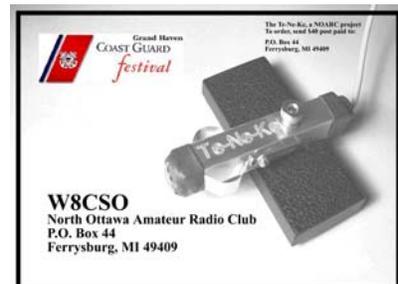
This period there were \$90.00 in expenses incurred for the Te-Ne-Ke project, and no revenues. The total revenue generated to date are \$4571.36. This IS reflected in the general account balance in the above ledger. Please continue to support this important project!!

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73, Greg Schippers, KC8HXO

***** Net Control Schedule *****

If you are unable to keep your appointment as Net Control, please arrange for a replacement.

- August 19 N8HCS Don**
- August 26 KB8VEE Tom**
- September 2 N8LBG Woody**
- September 9 KF8NF Dean**
- September 16 N8PFC Brad**
- September 23 KB8HU Charlie**
- September 30 N8YQD John**



Upcoming Events

Thursday August 28: Regular Club Meeting at the White Pines Middle School. Topics include a Mini Swap and Lou will show us how to make a “mystery Antenna”. Bring your radio gear & stuff to swap. Spread the word!

Saturday September 5th: 2PM Fox Hunt with the Muskegon Club. Meet at the former Hob Knob Parking Lot and chase the fox (N8HCS). Then, come to the Picnic at 4 PM at Ferry Park (on Spring Lake channel in Ferrysburg). The Club will Furnish Hot dogs & Brats. Please bring a dish to pass and the family. Help is needed to coordinate the picnic.

Saturday September 13th: Big GRARA Ham Fest at Forest Hill Middle School. NOARC will have 3 tables and members are invited to bring items to sell at the club table.

October 31 & November 1: ARRL State Convention and super swap at Zeeland Public High School located on the corner of 96th & Riley north of Zeeland.

Club Officers :

PRESIDENT:	Don Smith, N8HCS	846-1938
Vice-President:	Dean Whitney, KF8NS	842-0976
Treasurer:	Greg Schippers - KC8HXO	847-0238
Secretary/SPARK editor:	John Sundstrom, N8YQD	847-4249
Program Director:	Ed Summers, KC8LBZ	798-7055

A SWIM IN THE BIG LAKE By Roger N8RXC

Phyllis KB8NLN and I N8RXC exercise at the YMCA in Grand Haven at an average of three to five times a week. We saw a poster on the bulletin board requesting volunteers to help with the annual Lake Michigan Swim Race. We have an inflatable and have been sailors for years now. So this looked like an opportunity to help out and represent the NOARC at the same time.

We signed up at the desk and were contacted by "Christine" who was the coordinator. She said she had not done this before and talked like she could use all the help she could get. She told us the race would start at 8:00 AM on Saturday August 16th, at the North Beach Park. This park is about 1 ¾ miles north of the Grand Haven pier. The race would go south and end up at the pier.

On the appointed day, we set the alarm for 6:00 AM. We woke up at 5:30. Ate breakfast and loaded the boat into our trusty old red Suburban. It was a beautiful dawn as we drove to the fishermans pier on the north breakwater in Grand Haven and unloaded the boat. Also unloaded a handcart dolly for the boat, an outboard, PFD's, throwable cushions, bilge pump, bucket, sponge, six gallons of gas, handheld 2 meter, handheld marine band, distress signal flares and of course, my NOARC hat. The race gods must have been smiling when they looked down on the scene. (At least they got a good laugh when we put the boat in the water).

The waves were only a foot or two high, but they were breaking over my transom when I pushed the boat in the water. There was a couple inches of water on the floor when we finally got turned around and started the motor. Phyllis pumped out the water while I tried to navigate a north heading to the Park. As we got closer we met the Coast Guard and Sheriff's boats. We exchanged greetings and call signs, (Patcom and 772). We called ourselves, "Beach boat".

There were half a dozen or so kayaks that appeared with a load of 68 swimmers. Most were bused in from the Fishermans Pier and all wore yellow rubber caps marked with their swimmer number.

The race started about ten minutes after eight. The real racers started out and we soon lost sight of them as they led the pack south. The kayaks kept track of the masses, paddling back and forth keeping eye on the bobbing heads as well as they could. Phyllis and I cruised toward the rear of the pack. The last three or four started out in shallow water and some spent some time paddle walking. These we left to the capable lifeguards who watched and walked from the beach. We caught up with a swimmer who set course for Chicago and stayed with him. The sheriff and Coast Guard boats kept other boat traffic from entering the race area.

A little more than an hour later, the race was over. Each swimmer was met with cheers and clapping as he/she dragged their tired bodies out of the water. Phyllis and I were helped to unload the boat and drag it back to "Old Red". We were both soaked to the waist, but the water was warm and several people thanked us for our help. All were accounted for. It turned out that we had the only radio contact with the patrol boats and the racers.

It might be that some other NOARC members with a boat or handheld radio or both, would find it fun and interesting to volunteer at the race next year. "73's"

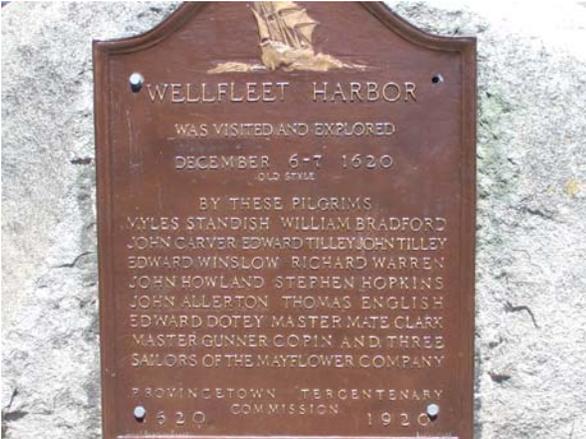
KB8NLN & N8RXC



From the Coast Guard Special Event Station. Pictures of volunteers that worked contacts during Coast Guard Week. The bands were not too good but we still managed to work 101 contacts— all on 20 Meters. Everyone enjoyed themselves.



Pictures from Wellfleet, Massachusetts on Cape Cod. This picture on the right is the site of Marconi's first transatlantic "wireless cable" sent by radio from President Teddy Roosevelt to the King of England. Wellfleet is a small town explored December 6, 1620. The picture on the left is a plaque about the town.



Below: Pictures of the French Atlantic Cable Museum in Orleans, Ma (Which is also on Cape Cod.) Before radio and telephone, messages to Europe and other parts of the world were sent by telegraph to the Cape Cod and then were relayed by underseas cable to France, England, ect. This Museum looks just as it did back in the 1800's. Messages were sent by morse code over the cable. Current flowing one way indicated a "dot" and the reverse a "dash". Currents were very weak after traveling from the coast of France but ingenious ways were devised to detect the signals. The cable was actually operated into the 1950's. During World War 2, underseas cables were used to Send messages because it was believed to be "secure".



FIELD DAY 2003 Results By Greg Schippers

A GREAT BIG thank you to all who participated in this year's NOARC Field Day, an interesting and fun-filled time was had by all! Our points this year were scored as follows: :

404 CW QSO points (2 points per QSO)

460 Phone QSO points

864 TOTAL QSO points

X2 (power multiplier)

1728 Score (before bonus points)

+1200 Bonus points were scored in various categories

2928 GRAND TOTAL POINTS FOR FD 2003 NOARC

Thanks once more for another great NOARC Field Day!!

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73, Greg Schippers, KC8HXO

Photo By "Our Waitress" of the Tuesday Night After the Net NOARC Crowd at Russ's in Grand Haven



