



North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

SPARK for AUGUST 2009



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GARSH, FELLAS, I'M SORRY I'M LATE!

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COMING EVENTS

August 25 The Holland ARC is having its next hidden transmitter hunt.
A Tuesday Night, at 7pm , a signal from an unknown location will emanate on
145.53 MHz, for 30 seconds, every five minutes. We are invited.

September 12 is the GRARA Hamfest at the Kent County Fairground near Lowell.

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

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

AUGUST 2009

- 4 N8RXC ROGER SIMMONS**
- 11 KC8UNY JOHN FISCHER**
- 18 N8FQ JOE VELDHUIS**
- 25 N8YQD JOHN SUNDSTROM**

Joe Veldhuis, N8FQ has announced:

EchoLink on the '49 is back up, running now from my QTH in Robinson twp. There may be some fine tuning left to do, but it is usable in its current state.

Node callsign is N8FQ-R, node number is 469574.

Commands:

##nnnnnn - connect to node by number (e.g. ##9999 for test server, ##96170 for MI reflector)

#Cnnnnnnnn - connect to node by callsign (see docs on echolink.org)

#73 or #D - disconnect

#32 - shut down echolink (for nets)

#23 - re-enable echolink

#0511 - listen-only mode, incoming stations can't transmit

#0510 - disable listen-only mode

#00 - connect to a random node

#01 through #03 - connect to a random user, reflector, link node

Note that all of the commands are prefixed by a pound sign (#), this tells the repeater to pass the DTMF tones, allowing the EchoLink box to hear them. I used double-pound (##) as the connect prefix to prevent conflicts with the autopatch.

I LEARNED ABOUT HAM RADIO FROM THAT!

In 1971 I worked for the FAA, stationed in Anchorage, Alaska. My work took me into the field much of the time, but on one occasion I was home with the family for several weeks. It was during this period that I had time to remember that I had obtained the call KL7DYD, but had never put it to use.

I had a general coverage receiver, one made for the FAA from the 1940's. I had salvaged it from the junk pile, and it worked very well. It was similar to a National HRO, one of the premier receivers of that period, but had an annoying feature of no direct frequency readout. The dial only had a logging scale, with a card mounted on the front giving correlations for each band. It was a matter of using interpolation to calculate the frequency any time it was important.

I set the radio up with a 20 foot length of antenna wire and tuned around 75 meters. I found a net was in operation, with many of the members local. Suddenly I burned with the desire to join in. Looking through some of the junk I had collected, I pulled out a Harvey Wells TBS-50D transmitter. This unit tuned the HF bands, had an 807 in the final, and looked almost intact. Of course, this generation was crystal controlled, needed a separate power supply and modulator. A local shop had a crystal for the net frequency, so I squandered some of my hard earned cash for a major purchase.

I had no decent power supply for an 807, which really needed about 600 volts at 100 milliamps, but settled for one I had that put out about 200 volts. On this type of rig, tuning was done by "dipping" the final plate current, a minimum current indicating resonance, and then adjusting the "loading" for maximum. The problem was that the meter barely got off the peg with such a low voltage. It moved so little that there was a lot of guesswork involved. The TBS-50D was really designed for phone use, AM in those days, and lacked a jack for CW. OK, since the current was so low I connected my key in the B- line. Still using the short antenna, all the wire I had available, I waited the next evening for the net. After the net ended, I tapped out a CQ, and almost jumped out of my chair when a YL operator from the other side of Anchorage came back to me! We chatted for a bit with me pounding brass and her on phone. After a while she told me that her ability to copy CW was about as bad as my ability to send it, and asked if I could figure a way to modulate it. I told her that I would try, and if successful, would call her after the net on the following night.

Now I needed a modulator. Ok, for AM that's nothing but an audio amplifier. I had a reel to reel tape recorder, an old VM (Voice of Music) brand that had a monitor position on its panel. This allowed the operator to listen over the loudspeaker to whatever was being recorded. Aha! There was my amplifier. I disconnected the speaker and connected the output to the six volt winding of an old TV set power transformer. The high voltage winding was then connected in series with my high voltage to the 807.

I anxiously waited the following evening for the net to end, then turned everything on and called the YL, She came right back and told me that I was over-modulating, and helped me find the right volume control setting. This was my first contact on HF phone, and I was a happy camper. I soon had to go back to traveling, and never did set that rig up again. W8IQE

The Classified Section)

For Sale: Assortment of nice Zenith Transoceanic all band radios. Contact John Sundstrom , N8YQD

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W8CSO (NOARC) Repeater information: If the NOARC repeater goes down , use 145.490 simplex

145.490 (- offset) tone 94.8 main receiver ; Grand rapids link receiver tone 91.5

Codes : Time of day 400; DTMF Test 325; signal report 750

Phone patch Instructions:

*** followed by phone number**

t o disconnect

6 + auto patch number to use your assigned auto patch number

911 calls Ottawa County Central Dispatch

912 call Muskegon County Dispatch

Club Net is every Tuesday night at 8PM. Net Controllers please note your assignment found on the calendar and be sure to get a substitute if you cannot take the net. Club Web Site <http://www.gsl.net/noarc/>. Site has information on Te Ne KE, club events and net schedules. All licensed amateurs are eligible for membership in the North Ottawa Amateur radio Club. Board meeting held 1 hour before meeting at meeting site. Annual dues are payable in December . 2007 Dues are \$ 25.00 individual and \$ 35.00 family or \$70 for 3 years. Please send dues to NOARC Box 44, Ferrysburg, MI 49409. Please keep the club Treasurer (sundstrj@gvsu.edu) informed as to your CURRENT e-mail address if you get the newsletter electronically or US mail address if receive it postal.

Postmaster: Return Requested

Ferrysburg, MI 49409

Box 44

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