



North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

SPARK for November 2006

Upcoming Events

December 2: Jingle Bell Parade

December 2: HARC Mini-swap

December 16: Lowell Hamfest

December 21: Regular Club Meeting at White Pine Middle School. This will be a Christmas potluck, bring your spouse.

January 27: Ham-in-a-day tech training.

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	Phyllis Simmons KB8NLN	846-3496
Treasurer	John Sundstrom N8YQD	847-4249
Activities Director	Vacant — volunteer needed!	

Hello Everyone ... Once again it is time to welcome Santa Claus to Grand Haven for this Christmas season ... yes it is the Jingle Bell Parade and it is this coming Saturday evening, December 2, at 7:00 pm and we have been asked to help guide Santa and all his fans large and small safely along the parade route by GHPS and the Grand Haven Chamber Of Commerce. We will be meeting starting at 6:15pm at the Grand Haven Public Safety Parking lot so we are on the route by 7:00 and should be done by 8:00 if his sleigh makes it on time. If you can help please come out, we will be communicating on the 145.49 repeater ... please send me a email reply if you can or catch John Fisher or myself on the repeater ... bring your family along too as this is a real nice winter time event lots of floats with lots of lights ... hope to see you there ... 73

Donkb8odb@sbcglobal.net or phone 616-846-7307

HARC Monthly Swap Meet

THE MINI-SWAP IS BACK-YOU RE INVITED TO HOLLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MONTHLY MINI - SWAP.

Did you miss the great mini-swap? Then come join us at our Technology and Training building in downtown Holland. Bring the family and friends for a fun day. Parking available. All welcome.

DATE : December 2, 2006 (Talk in : 147.060 94.8pl)
SET UP TIME : SAT 10 - 10h30
SWAP TIME : SAT 10h30 to 2.00pm
VENUE : 280 East 8th Street, Holland.

Talking about hamfests, how about one run by youngsters?
ARGYL(AMATEUR RADIO GROUP of Youth in Lowell) HAMFEST
Saturday, 16 December, 2006 - 0900 to 1200 EST
Lowell High School
11700 Vergennes Street
Lowell, MI 49331

for further info see <http://www.argyl.org/hamfest.html>
Nice bunch of younger hams - great winter hamfest! Come on out and support the youth!

Don't forget the potluck meeting on December 21!

January 27 there will be a Ham-in-a-day tech class by NOARC. Check with John Fischer for details at jtlr.fischer@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE: Echolink is now working on the repeater.

Nine enthusiastic members of the North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club met at the White Pines Middle School on Griffin St in Grand Haven on November 16th. The date was moved up because of Thanksgiving. They all devoured brownies and peanut butter cookies, courtesy of KB8NLN (Phyllis Simmons).

The usual meeting place was occupied by the schools country and western square dance club, complete with bales of straw in the hallway. The attendees of NOARC were undeterred and appropriated a room down the hall from the usual cafeteria.

John Fischer began the festivities somewhere around 7:15 pm. Since most of us were familiar with each other, the practice of introducing each other with name and call sign was temporarily suspended. That is with the exception of Joe Veldhuis, formerly KD8ATU now N8FQ.

Congratulations to Joe for attaining his Amateur Extra License. Joe said "It was easy. Anybody could do it". (Hi hi, snicker snicker)

John Fischer mentioned that the question of the repeater antenna on the hill in Grand Haven, or rather the tower holding the repeater, has been brought up at the Grand Haven City Commission again. The group formed a consensus opinion that the city needs to become aware of the important role that amateur radio plays in the event of emergency communications in the area.

We are planning to have a Tech Class, Amateur Licensing Class, in January 2007. The group may consider an all day class from 8:AM breaking for lunch then carrying the class thru the afternoon. Possible locations for the class could be the Barber School in Spring Lake and the Spring Lake EOC on Savidge St. in Spring Lake . More later as information develops.

President Fischer advised that the NOARC may be asked to assist the Jingle Bell Parade in Grand Haven, but that no one has asked for assistance yet. The Parade will be held on December 2nd around 7:00 PM.

A brief discussion was held about a Christmas Party, however, no decision was finalized at this time.

The highlight of the evening was a presentation by Paul Zellar on useful knowledge possessed by the licensed amateur and how that knowledge can be used to solve problems not necessarily in the mainstream thought processes. Among other things, Paul described how LEDs can be made into a current tester and the preservation of nickel cadmium batteries by proper charging techniques.

We finished the meeting, picked up the remnant crumbs of cookies and brownies, wandered down the hall and left the building somewhere around 9:10 PM

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

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

NOTE: This information is also found on the NOARC Web site at [yahoo groups/w8cso/calendar](http://yahoo.groups/w8cso/calendar)

Dec 5 KF8NS Dean Whitney

Dec 12 N8PFC Brad King

Dec 19 N8YQD John Sundstrom

Dec 26 KC8UNY John Fischer

I LEARNED ABOUT HAM RADIO FROM THAT!

In 1955 I wrote to the FCC, asking for information about a rumor that there was something new, a novice class amateur radio license. Instead of information, they sent me a packet that contained a form and a sealed envelope. The instructions said that I must first take the form to an amateur operator and have him testify that I was able to send and receive Morse at five words per minute. Only after that was I to take the sealed envelope to any US citizen and open it in their presence. They would certify that I had completed the enclosed written test without outside reference or assistance, then mail the test to the FCC for grading. I didn't know just what to do, not feeling prepared for this. I had only asked for information! Then I realized that I had nothing to lose by trying, so I rigged up a door bell buzzer to a key and battery. After practicing a couple of hours to help me remember the Morse that I had learned at Fort Benning, I called Huck Vanderwall, the only ham I thought of in Grand Haven. He was kind enough to invite me over and gave me the test. He didn't like the raspy buzzer, but it worked OK, so I could then take the exam to a neighbor and filled out the multiple guess answer sheet. The test was pretty basic, a few rules, procedures, and some Ohm's Law. Off it went and I soon was the proud owner of a license for WN8IQE. Now the problem was to get on the air. I had an old Hallicrafters S-38 receiver, but I was never able to get the BFO working. I copied some code just by the difference in background noise, but found it difficult. I had enough money to purchase a crystal, which cost about three hours of pay back then. Hitting the junk box I built a one tube transmitter on a wooden chassis, a true "breadboard" rig. The only proof that I had that it worked was to light a ten watt bulb connected as a dummy load. I spent many hours trying to make a contact, but never succeeded, even to another ham ten miles away that I had listening for me. I have often wondered just what frequency that rig was on!

The Classified Section)

Heathkit SW-717 solid state Short Wave Receiver, works great, AM and 1.5-30 MHz general coverage receiver, good starter radio for the kids! \$35. Contact Craig at k8crc@arrl.net

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

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Name _____ Call _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

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.qsl.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.

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Box 44

Ferrysburg, MI 49409

Postmaster: Return Requested