



North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

SPARK for JULY 2007



FUN, FOOD, AND FROLIC AT FIELD DAY 2007

President	John Fischer ,KC8UNY	846-8998
Vice President:	Don Smith, N8HCS	846-1938
SPARK editor	Paul E. Zellar W8IQE	844-0807
Secretary	Roger Simmons N8RXC	
	Phyllis Simmons KB8NLN	846-3496
Treasurer	John Sundstrom N8YQD	847-4249
Activities Director	Vacant — volunteer needed!	

COMING EVENTS

JULY 7, Mini swap at Holland

JULY 8, 7:30am Grand Haven Triathlon Festival 1.2mi swim, 56mi. bike, 13.1mi. Run—

1.5k swim, 40k bike, 10k run— 500m swim, 20k bike, 5k run

This event runs in the City of Grand Haven and down the lake shore to Holland. Help is needed.

JULY 14, Mini-Swap, circle drive in front of LARC ham shack, HWY M-21 East end of Lowell.

TI: 145.27-(94.8Hz) <http://www.w8lrc.org>

Treasurer's Report for July 2007 By N8YQD

Chase Bank:

as of 6/15/07

Checking Account 934.43

Savings 3487.70

4422.13

Grand Haven Community

Foundation (3/07) 4601.77

Total 9022.90

Summertime and the living's is easy. As the song goes. It was a fine time we had at Rycenga Park for the June meeting of NOARC. The purpose of the picnic meeting was to organize the area and determine what activities we will try during the annual Field Day. That and of course to eat hot dogs, brats, potato salad, cake, cookies, cans of pop and what coffee was left when Roger turned a corner a tad too sharp, tipping the coffee pot over on the floor of the back seat on the way to the park.

At first it didn't look like we would have much of a crowd. Phyllis and I unloaded the goodies for supper. A little after six, Joe Veldhuis appeared and began setting up his digital mode radio station on a picnic table under the pavilion roof.

At around quarter after the hour, hams began trickling in. At the appointed time of six thirty most of the gang appeared . At that time the coals were hot on the grill and the hot dogs were hot with the sizzling brats. We dug in. Twenty one heads chomped down food and the conversation quieted right down.

President John Fischer and Don Meyer began the meeting when the conversation level resumed. He asked for six laptops to log the station activities. Don demonstrated procedure in logging contacts with a new program called "Squirrel".

We plan to operate as a 3A unit with the club call sign of W8CSO. We anticipate a forty meter, twenty meter, eighty meter/fifteen meter, a GOTA station, VHF station and a satellite station

We packed up the left overs when the mosquitoes began to gang up on us. Each of us trying to remember what preparation we promised to do and bring with one day left before the main event.

Oh boy!, Oh boy its gonna be fun.! Respectfully submitted, Phyllis and Roger

P.S Field Day is June 23rd and June 24th, shouldn't it be called Field Days?

******* 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

JULY 3	KB8NLN	PHYLLIS SIMMONS
July 10	KD8ODB	DON MEYERS
July 17	KC8UNY	JOHN FISCHER
July 24	N8RXC	ROGER SIMMONS
July 31	W8IQE	PAUL ZELLAR

The weather was fine. It was warm and sunny, with just a little breeze, not enough to ripple a flag. Phyllis and I jumped out of bed shortly after five thirty in the morning of June 23rd, 2007. Like Joe Veldhuis said " I just got all my radio stuff together and stuck it in the car". We did the same thing, with a check list. At seven thirty we pulled into the Rycenga Park gate and saw Mark Moss, Lou Meisch, Joe Veldhuis, John Fischer and a few others already working on antennas and organizing the compound. Lou threw his weighted line to unbelievable heights to raise high wire antennas. There was an eager air of anticipation as tents were raised, and a screened in room placed next to the pavilion.

John Fischer already had coffee brewing in a thirty cup maker. The egg casserole soon appeared, courtesy of Bonnie Schippers. The food was laid out cafeteria style on the lined up picnic tables. There was also bacon, sausages, fresh fruit, bananas, strawberries and cantaloupe. and cookies. Also, water, hot chocolate and your choice of canned pop. At the appointed hour of eight thirty, All gathered at the tables to partake breakfast.

John Sundstrom led a moment of silence remembering the silent keys, who died last year. A somber moment that touched us all.

Setting up of the six radio stations continued at an industrious pace. Paul Zeller and Jim Wolter planted enough solar panels to electrify the whole encampment. Don Meyer furnished the logging programs for the whole event.

Phyllis and I made a pizza run at Little Caesars on Robbins Road , Grand Haven, shortly before 11:30. In all, we delivered eight pizzas for lunch.

When two o'clock rolled around, radio traffic began in earnest. "CQ Field day, CQ Field day, CQ Field day, W8CSO calling CQ Field day". You could almost imagine operators from all over the United States and Canada calling, all at the same time. Lou Meisch changed one of his antennas right away. He had already put up eight or nine exotic species of antennas already.

We put up a screened in room for Joe Veldhuis and his digital VHF/UHF mode transceiver. His radio was connected to a laptop computer thru a TNC.,(terminal node ontroller). Over the entrance of his screened in room, we put an "Information here " sign. Joe made us point the arrow to the dining pavilion. There, Phyllis Simmons was busy cooking supper. Don Meyer brought in a portable smoker which came in very handy heating dinner and keeping food warm for later consumption.

It was impressive to watch Joe as he contacted stations all over the country. The colored messages scrolled down his computer screen and at the bottom of the screen you could see active transmissions in the shape of a "waterfall" .

Mark Moss mounted a military surplus portable tripod antenna , for Joes digital station. Then he moved to the "field" for his two and six meter station. He was pretty lonely during most of the contest. Asked if he had any comments about six meters, he said "Yeh, six meters is dead". Even so, he managed to get more than 33 contacts around the country.

Supper was served at six thirty. Chicken, beef chuck patties, and potluck supper. Salads, cookies, scalloped potatoes,beans and two kinds of cake . Put that with canned pop, coffee tea and water. No one came away from the table hungry. The club is fortunate to have more than its share of good cooks.

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Into the evening and night the contacts continued. Lou Meisch raised a broadband 80 meter dipole antenna constructed around 3" rings to look like a long tube. His first two attempts at contacts brought two out of state radio operators answering him. During the night, the park sprinkler system activated. Lou had puddles inside his tent, but fortunately no damage was done. Lou had prudently removed his radios.

President John Fischer and others, ran a hot twenty meter station in Lou Meisch's trailer. John Sundstrom racked up a contact in Greenland. During the night, between 11:45 PM and 1:30 AM Sunday, Don Smith and Don Meyer contacted one hundred and fifty stations. The contacts came so fast the two operators didn't even have to call CQ They just let the operators pile up . After 1:20 AM Don Meyer said " Don I can't even say the words anymore. Its time for you to transmit and I'll log."

Over at the satellite receiving station, "Skip" George Verduin fervently tried to contact one of the orbiting satellites. Hour after hour he pursued the orbiting radio stations. Some of them were going in excess of seventeen hundred miles per hour. An internet program gave the locations and orbits of the targets. Skip used a large protractor and a home made rotor with his home made multi element yagi antenna to aim at the satellites. Silence or static resembling the raster sound of a TV set after the station goes off the air was his only reward. Then sometime after nine o'clock in the evening, The static noise was heard again, then a beeping noise. We got excited right now and crowded around the receiver. several hams gathered to hear the new contact. The beeps got louder. Then someone looked around the crowd. Lou Meisch was making hissing and beeping noises in his hand held transceiver. He had programmed his radio to the same frequency as the satellite receiver.

The next morning Skips patience was rewarded with an actual contact. Sometime around 10:30 AM, Skips CQ resulted in a brief conversation with a 2A station out west on satellite VO52.

Gordon Stockhill, stalwart of the CW world, manned his 40 meter CW Station. It was located on the west side of the park, Gordon had his trailer and the weather permitted him to operate outside, beneath the shade of his "veranda". Jim Wolter gave a hand with amazing speed making the continuous wave sound like a machine gun spitting out messages.

Every one had his own plan for survival in the "wilderness" Phyllis and I flaked out in the back of our suburban, just before midnight, There was so much equipment in the truck, Phyllis was able to stretch out to sleep. On the other hand, I didn't have enough room to lay every thing flat on the bed. So I alternated between laying my legs flat on the bed and sitting up and laying down with my back flat and my legs in the air.

When two in the afternoon came around, most of us were ready to return to civilization. We found our equipment ,took down those beautiful antennas, repacked our vehicles and bid goodbye to Field Day for another year. Thanks to the named and unnamed helpful individuals at this event. Everyone gave one hundred and ten percent, I am sure that some worthy amateurs were inadvertently missed in my recollection of the things that happened here. For that omission, I apologize. All of us left with a sense of regret for leaving Field Day for the "real world". We also resolved to make ourselves better for the next year. Till then,

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis and Roger Simmons

THIS SPACE FOR RENT!

The Classified Section)

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

Light emitting diode lights. Key chain, clip-on, pen size, 14 LED jumbo. How about a night light that will be bright enough to read by after being on for a year? Contact Paul Zellar, W8IQE

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www.marinetechnet.net



Don Smith
1628 Franklin
Grand Haven, MI. 49417
n8hcs@arrl.net
616-638-6383

Painter

1 year Dues Renewal Form. Single \$25 Family \$30. Buy 3 years for \$70 and you get a Mi Tax credit of \$35 on your 2005 return. Please fill out mail to Box 44 Ferrysburg, MI 49409

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.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.

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Box 44

Ferrysburg, MI 49409

Postmaster: Return Requested