

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

SPARK for January 2004

Presidents Report By Dean Whitney, KF8NS

Greetings all hams,

I suspect this will be a bit briefer than Don's presentations, as I don't have a whole lot of 'presidential' type of news. On the home front, we have the Technician class in full swing at White Pines Middle School, with the second session under our belts. Thanks to all the members that have shown up to show support for the students. The first week we had about 5 students show up, the second week, 2 showed. Class runs from 7pm until 9pm, with questions fielded, yarns spun, & advice freely given, key word being 'free'. If anyone knows of anybody that is interested in getting a license, tell them to show up on Monday evening, or contact Don Smith or myself. We'll publish the test date as soon as we determine exactly when it will be.

We have two hamfests coming up, one in February in Traverse City, and one in March, in Marshall. We'll have tables at the Marshall Hamfest, so any club members are welcome to bring gear to set out on the tables.

For anyone thinking about getting away from the Michigan winter, I'd like to recommend a 'jaunt' to New Zealand, ONLY an 18 hr flight, but definitely worth the time. Being 'half New Zealander', or a 'Kiwi' as they call themselves, I enjoyed my first visit to the country, and was able to visit relatives, some that I'd met before here in the states, & some I'd only seen in photographs. It was definitely the most enjoyable vacation I've ever had, and the fact that it lasted almost 5 weeks, including 4 days in Hawaii on the way back, made it all the more enjoyable. I took almost 500 digital photo's on the trip, so I'll be submitting a couple every month to Andrew to publish as he sees fit.

I was scanning the 2 meter frequencies shortly after arriving in the North Island, making contact with hams in Auckland, and they gave me the frequencies of numerous repeaters thru out the country. After traveling the length of the North Island by train to the capital city of Wellington, I walked the area quite a bit, as driving seemed out of the question, with everyone driving on the wrong side of the road, and what I felt to be in a rather 'haphazard fashion', with very few stop signs, and unique intersections with 'roundabouts' that could turn your hair grey instantly.

I did talk to one ham on the Christchurch repeater in the South Island, that kindly picked me up & took me to the local radio club meeting, introducing me to the members, & even gave me an evening 'tour' of the city, which was an eye opening experience in itself. I found all the hams to be extremely friendly to a 'Yank' visitor, and was able to bring back a couple of New Zealand Call Books, which I'll bring to the club meeting for all to see.

Until next month, 73's, de KF8NS, Dean

(Pictures to follow later in this newsletter)

Treasurer's Account Status as of October 21, 2003 by Greg Schippers, KC8HXO

Beginning Balance of all accounts was \$5861.65, of which checking and savings totaled \$5035.69, and the NOARC endowment fund balance of \$825.96

Income for the period: \$267.42 of which .42 was interest on savings; \$60.00 was club dues; \$12.00 was 50/50 drawing from September Club meeting; \$40.00 was proceeds from sale of antenna tuner donated by Gordon Stockhill, KA8UQT; \$40.00 was proceeds from sale of commercial radios donated by Tom Fischer, K8OOO, and repaired and sold by Boyd Mason, NE8KE.

Expenses for the period: \$34.00 which was tables for the Holland Amateur Swap.

Ending balance of all accounts: \$6161.05 of which checking and savings total \$5269.11, and the NOARC endowment fund total balance is \$891.94

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

General Fund:	\$4994.11
Repeater Fund:	\$0
Digital Fund:	\$275.00
Endowment Fund	\$891.94
Total all funds	\$6161.05

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

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

■ Jan 6	KB8HU Charlie Osborn	■ Feb 3	N8LBG Woody Aldrich
■ Jan 13	N8ARY Andrew Young	■ Feb 10	KF8NS Dean Whitney
■ Jan 20	N8HCS Don Smith	■ Feb 17	N8PFC Brad King
■ Jan 27	KB8VEE Tom Vander Mel	■ Feb 24	N8ARY Andrew Young

Upcoming Events

January 22: NOARC Club meeting at the White Pine Middle School.

March 20: Marshall Hamfest– NOARC will have a 24 foot table for members to use.



Christchurch Logo



Dean poses at the “other” 45th parallel. Is that Latitude or Longitude?

Club Officers :

PRESIDENT:	Dean Whitney, KF8NS	842-0976
Vice-President:	Don Smith, N8HCS	846-1938
Treasurer:	John Sundstrom, N8YQD	847-4249
Secretary/SPARK editor:	Andrew Young, N8ARY	844-4484
Program Director:	Craig Christilaw, K8CRC	

NOARC TECHNICIAN CLASS

The NOARC Technician Class has begun. Sessions are on Monday Nights in room OF-9 of the White Pines Middle School. If you know someone who wants to be a Ham, it's not too late to join. Show up next Monday at 7 PM.

Repeater Report— by N8ARY

Well, the new controller is in place and has been working pretty well. I am sure everyone's noticed the new courtesy tone and either likes it or hates it. It is something that has to be programmed in a timed sequence to make different sounds. I haven't quite mastered it yet, so a "K" is all you get for now, unless the machine is in "net mode, when you'll hear "N."

Many of the previous operator controls have changed, too. They are published later in this newsletter.

Speaking of changing, Tom Fischer (K8000) has opened up the proverbial can of worms for the Echolink station. I have determined from an article he sent me that I should be using a UHF frequency to link my station to the repeater. Now there IS already a UHF receiver on the machine, so I will be getting a transmitter that will access that receiver when the Echolink station transmits. This will pull the station out of the legal "gray" area it is now operating in.

When I performed some testing on the repeater to try out my plan, I couldn't access the receiver from my house. I discussed possible problems with Don (N8HCS) on the air and this drew out several Hams to assist (just as planned). Don, Tom F. and John F. (KC8UNY) trekked up the hill to check the receiver antenna. Don discovered a bad connection and did his best repair (kicking the antenna). It receives a little better now but needs a more work. I built a chromium-plated, fully-illuminated genuine accessory 5 element UHF beam to use and we'll probably pick up another receiver antenna, too.

One "bug" in the Echolink system has surfaced. The Echolink radio can't hear the Grand Rapids Link. This means that you **MUST** use the main repeater system to talk to Echolink stations. I am working on this and am not yet sure how to solve the problem.

In the meantime, continue to enjoy the system and have fun.



This is Kem, ZL2BKY, that lives in Petone, close to Wellington (New Zealand). I found him by spotting his beam & tower, and introduced myself after knocking on his door. Kem has been a ham for many years, and although in his 80's, still enjoys sailing his 26 foot sailboat, and travels around the world when the mood strikes him.

Get a Tax Break and Help the Club at the Same time—make a Donation to the Grand Haven Community Foundation

Do you wish to do something special for the Club and get a tax break at the same time? Make a donation to the North Ottawa Amateur radio Club's Endowment Fund held by the Grand haven Area Community Foundation. If you make the donation prior to year end , you can claim a 50% tax credit on your Michigan Income Tax Return. For example, if you donate \$100 to the NOARC Endowment fund, you can claim a \$50 tax credit. Checks can be sent directly to the

Grand haven Community Foundation 1 South Harbor Drive, Grand haven, Mi 49417. Indicate the funds are to deposited into the North Ottawa Amateur radio Club Endowment Account. The funds are invested for us and we can withdraw the earnings (all or part) for use for club projects such as promoting Ham Radio, repeater improvements, ect. Special deposit envelopes are also available from John Sundstrom.

Dues Renewal Form. Dues are : Single \$35, Family \$45 . Please 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*****

Function	Value	Function	Value
Frequency	145.490 (-)	Load "Normal" File	1751
PL Tone	94.8 or 91.5 (GRR)	Load "Net Mode" File	1752
Carrier Access (no PL req'd)		Echolink Connect	#Cxxxxx where "x..." is the node nmbr.
Signal Test		Echolink Disconnect	#73
Autopatch Start	* then number	Echolink Random Connect	#01
Autopatch End	#	Echolink Check Status	#08
Emergency	911 or *911	Echolink Connect Last node	#09

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 . 2003 Dues are \$ 35.00 individual and \$ 45.00 family. Please send dues to NOARC Box 44, Ferrysburg, MI 49409. Please keep the club Treasurer (KC8HXO@yahoo.com) and the Club Secretary (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