



North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

SPARK for JULY 2008



Phyllis and Mark enjoying ladder line at Field Day 2008.

President	John Fischer ,KC8UNY	846-8998
Vice President:	Don Smith, N8HCS	846-1938
SPARK editor	Paul E. Zellar W8IQE	844-0807
Secretaries	Roger Simmons N8RXC	
	Phyllis Simmons KB8NLN	846-3496
Treasurer	John Sundstrom N8YQD	847-4249
Activities Director	Jim Miller W8JRM	

COMING EVENTS

ALAS, no swap meets were found in the area for July.

July 24th FOx Hunt as our regular meeting. Meet at White Pine Middle school at 7 PM and try to find the fox.

July 26th. Coast Guard Run. Meet at 7 AM at the Police & Fire Station

August 2 Coast Guard Parade. Not sure of schedule

Treasurer's Report for July 2008 By N8YQD

You will be happy to know that I balanced the checkbook and I was "right on".

Grand Haven Community Fund balance as of June 30,2008	\$ 5,125.08
Chase Bank Checking & Savings combined amount	3,349.09

CHECK THIS OUT!

<http://wecanchangetheworld.wordpress.com/2008/06/15/water-as-fuel-japanese-car-runs-on-water-salt-water-radio-waves-hydrogen-etc/>

******* 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

- 1 KC8UNY JOHN FISCHER**
- 8 N8RXC ROGER SIMMONS**
- 15 N8YQD JOHN SUNDSTROM**
- 22 KD8FCV JIM MILLER**
- 29 W8IQE PAUL ZELLAR**

JUNE MEETING AND FIELD DAY REPORT

At 6:00 PM on Thursday June 26th NOARC held its regularly scheduled meeting at the Coast Guard Park in Ferrysburg. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a hot dog roast and plan for the coming Field Day, the following Saturday. The weather was perfect. We planned what stations would transmit and where they would be located. We returned home to prepare and anticipate the weekend. Saturday came. Eyes were on the weather radar watching for the coming rain storm. Phyllis and I set our alarm for 5:30AM. She bounced out of bed right away. I took longer. We finished packing the suburban. It had more stuff in it than we did when we took the boat to Florida. When 7:30 rolled around, we were off to the Coast Guard Park.

President John Fischer was already there. He had loaded "Skip" Verduin's satellite antenna in the back of his truck from Don Meyer's house the previous night. Phyllis soon took over the "kitchen" and dining area. This consisted of a pavilion with a permanent roof and concrete floor. A large steel grill was next to the picnic tables. Roger added "ambience" by lighting Hawaiian style bamboo torches at the tables. Additional candles in bowls were lit in a vain attempt to discourage mosquitoes and flies.

Soon, the more ardent radio operators arrived on location. At 8: 00 AM breakfast was served. On the menu, Mc Donald's egg, cheese and sausage or bacon and biscuits were complemented with honey dew and cantaloupe. This was all washed down with coffee, hot chocolate and bottled water. About that time we broke out the ice boxes with cold pop. Tea was available, but I didn't see anyone drinking it.

Next came the business of raising antennas and setting up radio stations. Groups of hams labored together to work and watch Lou Meisch fling his antenna support lines over the tallest trees in the park. He lost one of his weights in the woods right away. Lou had a back up plan, however. Soon he was seen pitching a short length of chain over the tall limbs.

Mark Stern and Roger used Mark's sling shot to propel a lead weight over the trees and into the woods. It was only by good fortune and the lead being painted that it was found.

Gordon Stockhill worked CW on the forty meter band in Lou's trailer. He used a forty meter dipole antenna and made over a hundred contacts around the country. He was later joined by Jim Wolter and Joe Veldhuis. Joe worked a digital keyboard in CW mode. Lou Meisch primarily worked in a tent, located in the middle of a large field. He operated phone on the fifteen and eighty meter "V" beam antenna. It was hanging some 35 feet over the landscape. Jim Miller and others also assisted. Don Meyer brought a popup camper trailer. This became a twenty meter station with an antenna called a "Lazy H". Don worked with John Sundstrom, Ben Docter, Greg Schippers and Craig Christilaw. It should be mentioned that Craig brought the club's adopted mascot, Emma, a venerable golden Labrador retriever, supervised all operations and greeted visitors to the park. Ross Gates brought a large tent. Joe Veldhuis operated in VHF and UHF digital modes at that station.

Mark Stern and Roger set up their Coleman two room, tent as an eighty meter, mostly CW, GOTA station. The GOTA (Get On The Air) station was meant to get interested visitors and operators, not quite familiar with operating in a contest, a chance to get experience. A successful home made "Sky Loop" 272 feet long was raised over the site. The antenna was made of telephone wire. Small groups of amateurs moved around the compound. They helped string antennas, carried equipment and helped wherever possible. Extension cords were planted. They pulled on ropes, wires and set up computers for logging contacts. All radio transmissions were powered by batteries. The batteries were charged by solar panels. Most of these were brought, including portable lights, by Paul Zellar. Paul set up a large battery charging station, complete with a dolly to move those heavy batteries. Thank You Paul !!. Soon it was lunch time. Phyllis ordered six pizzas from Little Caesars. There was still pop in the ice boxes, coffee, tea and fresh fruit left over from breakfast. Guys remarked that they were still full from breakfast. They devoured the pizzas anyway.

Two O'clock in the afternoon sneaked up on the group. That was the moment the contest to make the most radio contacts in 24 hours began. The air was humming with RF. As the afternoon drifted by, we enjoyed sunshine and clear blue skies. Then the sky turned partly cloudy, Cumulus clouds scudding across the horizon soon turned to cumulonimbus. As dinner time approached, Joe Veldhuis began calling out radar weather reports from Ross Gates' now wind blown tent. "The storm will hit us in twenty minutes" etc. The sky now turned dark as the ominous weather front approached. It started to rain and the wind picked up. The families of the operators gathered and took cover under the roof of the pavilion. Then came the really heavy wind and rain. Ross' tent, with Joe Veldhuis in it started to blow away. Three or four stakes were ripped from the ground as Ben Docter and others tried to replace them and reanchor the tent.

Phyllis was grilling hamburgers on the grill just outside of the shelter. She complained that the rain was putting out the fire in the grill. Roger hastily dumped the remaining charcoal on the smoldering coals and Phyllis continued to grill in the rain. Soon the burgers were done and nineteen of the twenty hams and their families sat down to a great pot luck dinner. Joe Veldhuis refused to leave the windblown tent until the fierce wind let up. The menu consisted of beef and turkey burgers, fruit salads, potato salads, deviled eggs, four bean salad, green seven layered salad, zucchini bread, cookies and cake. The rain stopped after dinner. The flies and mosquitoes returned. Tom Vandermel, District 6 Emergency Coordinator and Bill Smith, Director of Ottawa County Office of Emergency Management visited. As mentioned before, Don Meyer, Assistant Emergency Coordinator with NOARC was responsible for computer operations. He collected all contacts made during the contest. He and President John Fischer submitted them to the ARRL.

Sometime around one thirty in the morning, Don Meyer and Roger made twelve phone contacts using the eighty meter loop antenna. We gave it up around three thirty for a couple hours rest. The dawn came bringing a beautiful morning and a pancake breakfast. There was coffee, hot chocolate, oatmeal and plenty of Mountain Dew. Paul Zellar brought a welcome box full of doughnuts and rolls. There was also fresh strawberries and syrup for the pancakes. The hams stayed long enough to eat. Then it was back to the radios for more contacts.

Time passed very fast. As one operator put it: "At 2:00 PM, the contact who was on the air transmitted QSL and QRT!!". Then all the frequencies went dead at the same time. It was eerie.

We apologize for any omissions in this account. There was no intent to leave out any names of the great members of the NOARC. All were enthusiastic helpful contributors. You know who you are. You helped set up the stations, contributed equipment, from the food service to the take down of all that equipment and clean up when it was over.

Our sincere thanks to all who showed up and all who served to make it a successful event.

Respectfully submitted: Phyllis and Roger Simmons

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



110 WASHINGTON AVENUE
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BOB JERNSTADT
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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.

Postmaster: Return Requested

Ferrysburg, MI 49409

Box 44

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