



# North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

## SPARK for MARCH 2010



RightReference.com

### Harvey Wells Bandmaster TBS-500

No trouble with menus in those days!

President	John Fischer ,KC8UNY	846-8998
Vice President:	Paul E. Zellar W8IQE	844-0807
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	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	

## COMING EVENTS

\*\*\*\*\*

March 6: The Ottawa Chapter of the ARC is offering their Annual "FREE" CPR Saturday on March 6, 2010 from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

March 20: Michigan Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall, MI

Just to give you something to look forward to:

Apr 3: ARGYL Hamfest, Lowell, MI

May 1: Cadillac Hamfest, Cadillac, MI

May14-16: Hamvention(r), Dayton, OH - Gary, Jim

June 4: IRA Hamfest, Hudsonville, MI

### SILENT KEY

Michael F. O'Brien, age 62, of Grand Haven, passed away Thursday, February 25, 2010, He was not a club member although a few members knew him and he had occasionally come for coffee.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

**MARCH 2010**

- 2 N8FQ JOE VELDHUIS**
- 9 KC8UNY JOHN FISCHER**
- 16 KC8JWA BEVERLY TRAXLER**
- 23 N8FQ JOE VELDHUIS**
- 30 KC8UNY JOHN FISCHER**

Thanx, Bev, for filling in and joining our net.

There are minutes for the February 18 meeting, no business was done.

## 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 mine 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 lady 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 poor 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, 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. Disconnecting the speaker, I 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 for the lady. 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**

**Understanding Multi-meters Booklet. Contact Paul Zellar, W8IQE**



***Donald Smith Painting***  
Don Smith  
Owner  
*Painting, Staining, Custom color matching, Drywall repair, Texturing, Carpet cleaning*  
*We deal in Pigments of your Infatuation*

**12960 Taft Rd.  
Nunica, MI 49448**

**616-502-3622**

*Good as the Best - Better than the Rest*

**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**

**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 . 2010 Dues are \$ 25.00 individual and \$ 35.00 family or \$70 for 3 years. Please send dues to NOARC Box 976, Grand Haven, MI 49417. 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**

**Grand Haven, MI 49417**

**Box 976**

**North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club**