

## **TRAINING AVAILABLE IN NORTH OTTAWA COUNTY**

*Don Meyer, KB8ODB*

Hello

In a on going program to bring training to all Hams involved in Amateur Radio Emergency services John Fischer and I are bringing in trainers for some of the meetings we are having in the Tri-Cities area. This not only trains the hams but also gives us an opportunity to show what we are doing and a chance to meet some of the Pubic Safety Officers we will be helping.

The training we find to be valuable for ARES we will try to setup with Bill Smith for the Filmore meetings. In respect to that, if someone missed training at Filmore because of a conflict with other commitments and would like to attend our training, I would hope they would take advantage of the opportunity to join us for our training.

With the Spring Lake Village opening the EOC in their Village Hall for meetings and storage of equipment, it has given us a wonderful opportunity to make the community members in this area of the county aware of how we can help them in times of emergency. It also gives us an opportunity to help out with community activities, which in turn helps us practice our skills so when the time comes that we are needed, we'll be ready.

I hope people will understand in an effort to make a better working relationship between Police, Fire, and Public Safety Departments in my area, and the Volunteer emergency service's organization, we are having some organizational meetings here in the northwestern area of the county. These do not replace the Filmore meetings. I in no way want this to "divide" the ham organization we have now in the county, but provide an opportunity to bring more hams into our organization along with forming a better working relationship with the organizations we serve.

Thank you for your time if you have any questions please send me a e-mail and I will try to answer you or find an answer for you. ....73

Don Meyer – KB8ODB AEC

# Treasurer's Report

John Sundstrom, N8YQD

Grand Haven Community Fund \$3,461.41

checking \$1956.73

savings \$3176.47

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total \$8594.61

So far about 30 have paid their 2005 dues. I am returning to Grand Haven about 3/24.

John de n8yqd



## This Week's Meeting

Hello fellow NOARCers...  
The March meeting will be Thursday, March 24, 2005, at the White Pines Middle School. Coffee and war stories at 700pm, and the meeting to follow. Since Michael Powell of the FCC cancelled at the last minute (it seems he has resigned and is now very busy looking for employment) we do not have a program for March. When this has happened in the past, we have had fun with the "Show and Tell" program, which means that each member should bring a favorite piece of equipment to the meeting and give a brief demo to the group.

I will be out of town that night, so I need someone to take the coffee pot to the meeting and brew the java. Also included are the required cookies, brownies, donuts, etc.

Also, I need ideas on future programs for the NOARC meetings. If you have any thoughts on this matter, please post them on this site or email them directly to me (k8crc@arrl.net). Thanks...

73  
Craig Christilaw  
K8CRC

## A Letter From Rick Elushik regarding Background Checks:

Good day to everyone.  
As one that has created, or taken part in creating most of the history of our current day programs (having been EC, DEC district 6, and State EC, currently the AEC for SKYWARN, hold several certificates from FEMA and the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, and was Volunteer/Instructor of the year for the Ottawa County American Red Cross) I thought I might bring a new perspective to our discussions here to moderate some of the latest e-mails that have been placed on this reflector.  
1. Ottawa County ARES/RACES has gone through several revisions and updates since I became the county EC in 1985. Yes we even had an AEC for North Ottawa and South Ottawa County and pulled the program back together as Ottawa County ARES, hoping that our move to the centrally located EOC at Fillmore would allow for a totally integrated program county wide. The truth of the matter is that there will always be unique requirements by the many user agencies around the county, and there will always be unique political issues to deal with in each jurisdiction.  
2. The choice to rename Ottawa County ARES to Ottawa County Emergency Communications (OCEC) was not a voluntary choice on the behalf of the program

leadership in this county. Our user agencies require background checks to be performed in order for our operators to be able to perform their duties in the users facilities.

We had a less than honorable gentleman attempt to work with WMSAR until he was pressed to complete a background check. He refused, was asked to leave WMSAR, and came back to the next meeting stating he was there as an ARES member and that the ARRL membership form stated that anyone regardless of their background could be an ARES member. He then threatened our leadership with a lawsuit if he was not allowed to participate (it was found that this person had a felony record). The ARRL was contacted and they stated that they would not (or could not) change their position as stated on the membership form and that we would have to find a place for this person to participate. ONLY after all of this was OCEC brought into existence as a private agency under the VESSA umbrella, allowing us to maintain control of our own program, and to allow for the required background checks.

3. OCEC still to this day allows for ARES membership, but if a background check is not allowed by the prospective member, that person kept away from security critical operations.

4. The North Ottawa County ARES Assistant EC and his program were established to satisfy the unique requirements of the user agencies in the Grand Haven/Ferrysburg area. This program still reports back to the county EC, which in turn reports the county activities to the ARRL.

5. All program (WMSAR/OCEC/ARES/RACES/SKYWARN) call outs come from the County Emergency Manager or the National Weather Service, and some local jurisdictions, and come to either the EC, the WMSAR Commander, or more commonly to my on-call pager (monitored 24/7/365).

6. There will always be requirements for communicators in both the Public Service and the Emergency Communications role. Each has its own unique training requirements and mission, and leadership must make accommodations for both types of operations. Let it be known that each role is important in its own right, should be respected for its unique roll, and not one stands over the other.

7. As members of these highly respected organizations, we should be supporting each other and our leadership, if not personally, publicly. We should leave the discussions of concern, dissent, and criticism for the meeting room where all have a say, were all can view each others mannerisms during the discussion, and where each of us can add our knowledge to the discussion to give us the best solution possible to the resolution of any issue of concern.

In my opinion, this reflector should be used for the support of our programs, support of our members and leaders, and to expand our knowledge of the subject at hand through open discussion.

I hope the background information presented is helpful and that you will continue to support and strengthen one of the best programs in Michigan through your continued membership and dialog.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NOARC NET

145.49 MHz, GRAND HAVEN

8:00 PM EVERY TUESDAY

Short net with check-ins, some discussion, and an informal get-together at Russ' on US 31 in Grand Haven afterward.

### BREAKFAST

PINE STREET CAFE

7:00 AM SATURDAYS

Join us on Saturday to catch up on the latest.

## NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

MAR 29- DON SMITH N8HCS

APR 5- TOM LAU W8TML

APR 12- TOM VANDERMEL KB8VEE

APR 19- WOODY ALDRICH N8LBG

APR 26- DEAN WHITNEY KF8NS

MAY 3- BRAD KING N8PFC

MAY 10- JOHN FISCHER KC8UNY

MAY 17- ANDREW YOUNG- N8ARY

THE NET IS AT 8:00 PM EVERY TUESDAY ON 145.490 MHz. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR A REPLACEMENT IF YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT AS NET CONTROL.

### Repeater Info:

Autopatch	* then number
Hang Up	#
Net Mode	1752
Normal Mode	1751
PL Tone	94.8
Grand Rapids Link PL Tone	97.5
Frequency	145.490 MHz
Input Frequency	144.890 MHz
Location	Near Grand Haven Benchmark

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR
1/20/05	ICS/Interface	Fillmore EOC Training Room	Bill Smith
2/17/05	Winter Vacation, tied up with Robinson Flood and Grants	Fillmore EOC Training Room	Bill Smith
3/17/05	Communications, OCCDA Update & Packet Radio	Fillmore EOC Training Room	Director Rich Troshak, OCCDA
4/21/05	Annual Skywarn Training	Zeeland High School East, DeWitt Auditorium	Mike Heathfield/Bob Dukesherer, NWS
5/19/05	Traffic Direction/Control Training	Fillmore EOC Training Room	Sgt. Steve Austin
6/16/05	Haz-Mat Awareness Refresher	Fillmore EOC Training Room	Bill Smith
7/21/05	Summer Vacation	No Training	
8/18/05	Summer Vacation	No Training	
9/15/05	Crime Scene Preservation	Fillmore EOC Training Room	Lt. Steve Crumb & Det. Jim Brack
10/20/05	First-Aid	Fillmore EOC Training Room	Lt. Lee Hoeksema
11/17/05	Vacation, White Tail	No Training	
12/16/04	Holiday	No Training	Merry Christmas

CLUB WEBSITE: <http://groups.yahoo.com/w8cso>

President- Tom Fischer- K8OOO

Vice President- Donald Smith- N8HCS

Secretary- Tom Lau- W8TML

Treasurer- John Sundstrom- N8YQD

Fungineer (Formerly known as Activities Director)- Craig Christilaw- K8CRC

This month's editor: Andrew Young- N8ARY

Dues are payable in December. Current dues are \$35 individual, \$45 Family. Please register on the Club's website to receive announcements and communications from other club members, or provide your mailing address and telephone number via "snail mail."

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 44  
Ferrysburg, MI 49409

PLACE STAMP HERE
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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