



North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

SPARK for March 2006

Happy Spring, West Michigan!

It is time to welcome back our long lost ham radio friends that escaped the long Michigan winter by fleeing to Florida. We missed you, and hope you all had a wonderful time in the warm weather of the southern states.

Bits & Pieces...

Future Events:

Dayton Hamvention (The world's biggest Hamfest!) May 19-21, 2006

Center for Women in Transition Grand Haven 5K race, May 20, 2006. Volunteers needed... contact Andrew N8ARY

Cadillac Hamfest May 6, 2006

Hudsonville Hamfest June 3, 2006

ARRL Field Day June 24-25, 2006

Te-Ne-Ke News...

The March 2006 issue of "CQ" magazine contains a great article by Phil Salas, AD5X, titled "A Compact and Effective 40-10 Meter Portable Station", and in the article, Phil is quoted "the Te-Ne-Ke is my portable key of choice". This is great PR for an outstanding product. Many thanks to Boyd Mason, NE8KE, and all of the club members that help produce this fine product.

I learned about Ham Radio...

By Paul Zellar, W8IQE

I LEARNED ABOUT HAM RADIO FROM THAT!

In 1955 I wrote to the FCC, asking for information about a rumor that there was something new, a novice class amateur radio license. Instead of information, they sent me a packet that contained a form and a sealed envelope. The instructions said that I must first take the form to an amateur operator and have him testify that I was able to send and receive Morse at five words per minute. Only after that was I to take the sealed envelope to any US citizen and open it in their presence. They would certify that I had completed the enclosed written test without outside reference or assistance, then mail the test to the FCC for grading. I didn't know just what to do, not feeling prepared for this. I had only asked for information! Then I realized that I had nothing to lose by trying, so I rigged up a door bell buzzer to a key and battery. After practicing a couple of hours to help me remember the Morse that I had learned at Fort Benning, I called Huck Vanderwall, the only ham I thought of in Grand Haven. He was kind enough to invite me over and gave me the test. He didn't like the raspy buzzer, but it worked OK, so I could then take the exam to a neighbor and filled out the multiple guess answer sheet. The test was pretty basic, a few rules, procedures, and some Ohm's Law. Off it went and I soon was the proud owner of a license for WN8IQE. Now the problem was to get on the air. I had an old Hallicrafters S-38 receiver, but I was never able to get the BFO working. I copied some code just by the difference in background noise, but found it difficult. I had enough money to purchase a crystal, which cost about three hours of pay back then. Hitting the junk box I built a one tube transmitter on a wooden chassis, a true "breadboard" rig. The only proof that I had that it worked was to light a ten watt bulb connected as a dummy load. I spent many hours trying to make a contact, but never succeeded, even to another ham ten miles away that I had listening for me. I have often wondered just what frequency that rig was on!

The Novice license was only for one year, and not renewable. I knew I couldn't handle the 13 words per minute for the General license. A month after I got my ticket, another local ham got his, and that had a K prefix. I realized that I had one of the last W8 calls, and didn't want to lose it. I sent back to the FCC for a Technician class license examination, which was handled the same way as the Novice. Back to Huck for another code test with my buzzer! The written was the same as the General, and soon I could drop the N from my call. Through the Grand Haven Amateur Radio Club I was able to borrow a Red Cross owned 6 meter Gonset Communicator, and I was off and running.

Treasurer's Report for February 2006, John Sundstrom N8YQD

So far 35 out of 45 members have paid their 2005, 2006 & 2007 dues. (3 years is \$70) Please pay yours if you have not done so. If you pay this month, you will receive the tax credit.

The balance for all accounts (as of the November Bank Statement) are:

Bank One checking	\$1793.67
Bank One Savings	\$3,185.33
Sub total	\$ 4979.00
Grand Haven Community fund	\$3,857.57 as of 06/30/05
Total all accounts 12/01/05	\$8,836.57

The Classified Section (send your ads to Craig k8crc@arrl.net)

Heathkit SW-717 solid state Short Wave Receiver, works great, AM and 1.5-30 MHz general coverage receiver, good starter radio for the kids! \$35. Contact Craig K8CRC,

k8crc@arrl.net

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1 year Dues Renewal Form. Single \$35 Family \$40. 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 _____

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Activities Director	Vacant	

******* 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 www.qsl.net/noarc

March 21	KD8ATU	Joe Veldhuis
March 28	N8LBG	Woody Aldrich
April 4	KF8NS	Dean Whitney
April 11	N8PFC	Brad King
April 18	N8YQD	John Sundstrom
April 25	KC8UNY	John Fischer
May 2	N8HCS	Don Smith