



North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club SPARK for OCTOBER, 2010



KB8NLN AND N8RXC, happy volunteers

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

October doings

10/2 KC8UNY is looking for help for a race in Grand Haven with a pancake breakfast following. Call John Fischer if you can help.

10/2 Silent Key sale at Powder Coat of Central Michigan, 1 mile south of Ithaca. More than 300 items. 10 AM to 2 PM

10/16 Holland swap hollandarc.org

10/17 Kalamazoo kalamazoohamfest.com

EVERY SATURDAY! 11:00 AM on 146.940 (-) (94.8PL) Called the TechNet, the theme is technical discussions of amateur radio subjects

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

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

OCTOBER 2010

5 N8YQD JOHN SUNDSTROM

12 N8KYP LOU MEISCH

19 N8NLN PHYLISS SIMMONS

26 KC8UNY JOHN FISCHER

September minutes:

Members of NOARC gathered at the Spring Lake Library shortly before seven in the evening. Phyllis Simmons unloaded cookies, brownies and apples for refreshments, while John Sundstrom provided the coffee.

President Fischer opened the meeting. Paul Zellar announced that Jack DenBraber is getting rid of some HF ham equipment of a "silent key" from Grand Rapids, including a 50 foot Rohn 25 tower with a beam antenna for \$100.00. Jack said he can supply a trailer to move it.

John Sundstrom advised that the estate of Gary Bortles (KB8IPU) in Alma has the sale of Heathkit material. A list can be found on the West Michigan Ham Web Site.

It was like the O.K. Coral when members pulled out their digital phones, I Pods, Evos and etc. John Sundstrom was giving a presentation on the Sprint Evo (smart phone). He demonstrated the various aspects of the hand held machine including telephone, Echolink, FM radio, GMail, antivirus, internet, camera, two way video, music, GPS, Wi Fi, TV, Blue tooth, and other "apps".

Paul Zellar won the fifty fifty drawing,(such as it was).

Don Meyer told the group that volunteers were welcome and needed for the Old Boys Marathon on Saturday. Helpers are to meet at the Sheriff's OCEC trailer in Wm Ferry Park in Ferrysburg.

At around eight twenty, the NOARC members casually departed from the library, narrowly missing being locked in for the night at eight thirty.

Respectfully submitted: Phyllis and Roger Simmons

SATURDAY AT THE PARK

(My version of the Old Boys Marathon, by Roger Simmons)

Phyllis and I set the alarm clocks for five thirty am on Saturday morning. We wanted to have enough time to finish packing our radio equipment. Phyllis' light went out on her alarm clock. After setting the time on my clock, I forgot to turn it on. We both woke up close to five thirty anyway. Our bicycle tires were pumped up with air on the night before. We ensured that our ponchos were at the ready. We planned to bike to the briefing at Ferry Park. We brought extra plastic bags in hopes of keeping things dry if it rained, ate breakfast, and were ready to leave at six thirty.

We took the bike path south on Fruitport Road to the Spring Lake Cemetery. There we passed a portable toilet stationed at the intersection of the Cemetery and the bike path. West on the path the race markers were in place.

The sky was too dark for that time of morning. Near Alden Street at the water fountain shelter, we decided to put our ponchos on. We narrowly avoided getting wet from the first drops, as we approached the US 31 bridge, but by the time we mounted the bridge, it was pouring.

On arrival at the Sheriff's trailer in Ferry Park there were Police officers from Spring Lake, Ferrysburg, and Grand Haven. Ham radio operators, volunteers and the race coordinator were huddled beneath the trailer awning and inside the trailer. It became a drenching hard rain with strong wind, lightning and thunder.

The important matters were taken care of first. There was coffee inside the trailer, next to the radio stacks. Beneath the awning was a long table, and on it were maps, clipboards and welcome sweet rolls. Priorities are important.

As the eight o'clock start time approached there was concern that the race should be canceled. John Sundstrom called Channel Eight Television on his Evo cell phone. "Laura" the meteorologist was in the middle of a broadcast but in between her appearances on the screen, she gave updates on how long the lightning would last in our area. It was decided to postpone the race for an hour. Phyllis and I took shelter in the nearby pavilion, a short distance from the trailer.

As nine o'clock rolled around, we were issued three maps of the three race routes, 5K, half marathon, and full marathon. Phyllis and I were then assigned the intersection of Third St. and Pine St. in Ferrysburg. We assisted a police officer with traffic control and kept him abreast of the race status.

The first race was a 5K. Soon the runners ran thru the intersection. The three of us managed to pass all the runners thru the intersection traffic without incident. The storm had let up but it was still raining. When the intersection was clear of runners, the officer resumed other duties. Phyllis and I were assigned locations on the bike trail in Spring Lake. The half marathon and full marathon were to take place were to take place there. Phyllis was assigned to Alden St.

A young lady, a high school senior volunteer, helped me at the intersection of Buchanan and Liberty Streets. She directed the runners where to make a turn in the course while I handled traffic. The young volunteer braved the weather admirably, which had subsided somewhat. As noon approached, my volunteer had to depart for a meeting in Grand Rapids and I was alone with the runners and traffic for several hours.

There were several sessions of rain, some hard. I found a tree for cover whenever no runners were present. After the half marathon runners passed, the full marathoners came. The fastest ones came just as the last of the half marathons passed.

At last all but a few runners struggled and chugged by my corner. Phyllis and I were relieved from our posts. We joined up with Lou Meisch and the Old Boys Brew House furnished us a barbecue sandwich for lunch. It was a pleasant change from the weather when we scrambled back on our bikes and pedaled ourselves on soggy wet bicycle seats back home.

Many racers thanked us for our help along the paths and after the race. All in all, it was a gratifying way to spend a Saturday at the Park.

The Classified Section)

For Sale: Assortment of nice Zenith Transoceanic all band radios. Contact John Sundstrom , N8YQD

Understanding Multi-meters, oscilloscopes booklets. Simplified basic electricity text. 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