



# North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

## **SPARK for September 2005**

### **Upcoming Events**

***Professor James Wolter will speak at the September 22 NOARC Club Meeting***

***You won't want to miss this month's club meeting. Jim, W9BWC, will be speaking on batteries and Ham Radio emergency power from the sun. This is an important topic of interest for amateur radio members. James is a professor of Business at Grand Valley State University and has degrees in Physics and Business. He was the founder of the Marec (Michigan Alternative & Renewable Energy Center) which is located at Terrace Point in Muskegon. Jim has developed DC Power systems since he was a new product development engineer at General Electric. Jims ham radio interest are centered around high speed cw, which was inspired by woody', n8lbg, his cw elmer.***

***The Muskegon Radio Club will host this year's annual Fox Hunt on Saturday September 24. This will be a two meter transmitter hunt.***

Please be at our clubhouse, 2888 Scenic Drive, Muskegon, MI at 2:00 pm on Saturday, September 24, 2005.

Afterwards the winning fox hunting team will be asking everyone to join them for a Steak Fry at the clubhouse at 5:00 pm. The winning team, up to three individuals, will win a free dinner. The rest of us will pay \$7.50 each meal. You won't have to bring anything as the club is handling everything. So gather up your fox hunting equipment and bring along your best friend/navigator/body guard/helper/assistant/brains of the operation. It will be great fun.

Have You joined the NOARC Discussion Group? To join, go to the Noarc Web Page

Located at [www.Qsl.net/noarc](http://www.Qsl.net/noarc). Next look for the "join discussion group" button on the front page. You will be moved to a Yahoo web page for actual signup.

|                               |                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>              | <b>Tom Fisher ,K8000</b>      | <b>846-1020/ 638-3655 (cell)</b> |
| <b>Vice President:</b>        | <b>Don Smith, N8HCS</b>       | <b>846-1938</b>                  |
| <b>Treasurer/SPARK editor</b> | <b>John Sundstrom-N8yqd</b>   | <b>847-4249/ cell 638-4166</b>   |
| <b>Secretary</b>              | <b>Tom Lau-W8TML</b>          | <b>231-861-7048</b>              |
| <b>Activities Director</b>    | <b>Craig Christilaw K8CRC</b> | <b>844-0461</b>                  |

## **Upcoming Events Save This !!!**

**September 22: Regular Club Meeting at the White Pines Middle School. Professor Jim Wolter, W9BWC will be speaking on DC Electricity and Batteries.**

**September 24: Fox Hunt with the Muskegon Club acting as host. Meet at the Muskegon clubhouse on Scenic Drive at 2 PM for the fox hunt. The winning car will receive 3 free steak dinners. The Steak dinner is served at 5 PM, so you will want to stay for it. The price is only \$7.50.**

**October 10th: Great Lakes Super Swap at the Harbor Lights School in Holland, I See the flier attached to this newsletter. Noarc will have tables for members to sell Items.**

**October 27 : Regular Club Meeting at the White Pines Middle School. Topic will be on receivers & how they work.**

**December ??: Annual Christmas Party hosted by Craig Cristilaw**

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### **\*\*\*\*\* 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](http://www.qsl.net/noarc)**

|                  |           |               |                       |
|------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <b>September</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>N8YQD</b>  | <b>John Sundstrom</b> |
| <b>September</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>KC8UNY</b> | <b>John Fisher</b>    |
| <b>October</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>KB8ATU</b> | <b>Joe Velthuis</b>   |
| <b>October</b>   | <b>11</b> | <b>N8ARY</b>  | <b>Andrew Young</b>   |
| <b>October</b>   | <b>18</b> | <b>N8HCS</b>  | <b>Don Smith</b>      |
| <b>October</b>   | <b>25</b> | <b>KB8ATU</b> | <b>Joe Velthuis</b>   |
| <b>November</b>  | <b>8</b>  | <b>N8LBG</b>  | <b>Woody Aldrich</b>  |
| <b>November</b>  | <b>15</b> | <b>KF8NS</b>  | <b>Dean Whitney</b>   |

## Treasurer's Report for August 2005, 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.

**The balance for all accounts (as of the July 23, 2005 Bank Statement) are:**

|                                    |                 |  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Bank One checking</b>           | <b>1,988.52</b> |  |
| <b>Bank One Savings</b>            | <b>3,182.44</b> |  |
|                                    | -----           |  |
| <b>sub total</b>                   | <b>5,170.96</b> |  |
| <b>Grand Haven Community fund</b>  | <b>3,567.87</b> | <b>as of 06/30/05 yes, we made money</b> |
| <b>total all accounts 07/23/05</b> | <b>8,738.83</b> |  |



Hank Reikels provides words of wisdom -field day 2005

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

# My experiments with Portable WIFI phones

John Sundstrom , MiCTA President    [sundstrj@gvsu.edu](mailto:sundstrj@gvsu.edu)    [www.micta.org](http://www.micta.org)

My definition of a WIFI phone is a wireless portable telephone that employs the voice over Internet Protocol technology and operates in the 802.11 (commonly known as WIFI) environment. This technology is useful because it enables the leveraging of an already deployed network (wireless broadband) for another use—voice telephony. Also, since the voice call is sent over the commodity internet for all or half of the call, it should be of lower cost than conventional cellular phones.

In this study, I did not look at Voice Over Internet Protocol (or VOIP) phones operating in a PBX environment.

While there are 50 or more companies offering VOIP phone service over wired networks, I found few companies providing a wireless option. One company who did was Broadvoice ([www.Broadvoice.com](http://www.Broadvoice.com)). Broadvoice costs a flat \$19.95 per month for unlimited calls to the United States and Canada, which is cheaper than any cell phone offer for equivalent coverage that I am aware of. The Broadvoice phone only works when it is in range of a 802.11 WI-FI "hot spot". It works by converting human analog voice and telephone signaling into IP packets that are routed over the commodity internet. At the other end, the calls ring and sound just like a conventional cell phone or land line call. I found the call quality was "fair" but acceptable. The big limitation of the Broadvoice system is that one needs to be in range of a WI-FI system. However, this limitation is not too great of a problem if one lives in a city like Grand Haven, Michigan that has city wide wireless internet service plus numerous coffee shops providing free open WI-FI connections for the price of a cup of coffee. I think this technology will become attractive to students attending a University or College that provides WI-FI service for the campus. To find out how well the service works in a University environment, I requested a test of the phone in Grand Valley State University's WIFI environment. Grand Valley State University has an enrollment of 22,000 students and is based in Allendale, Michigan. GVSU provides students, faculty & staff free WIFI access in most academic buildings and in campus housing. Although the phone did work, there were severe range problems. It was stated that the WIFI phones might make a lower cost substitution for commercial cell phones currently issued to staff who use them just on campus. Part of the problem was the phone provided by Broadvoice had range problems and the audio quality was "fair to poor". Broadvoice is aware of these problems and is about to replace the phones with an improved version.

One interesting aspect of internet phones is that there is no geographical limitation as to area code and exchange for the phone number. Although I live in Grand Haven, Mi., my test phone had an Ann Arbor number assigned to it (734-531-0258). Also, for \$2/month, I could have a second phone number in say, Los Angeles. If one had business or relatives in these two cities, clients or relatives could call you for just the price of a local call.

I am currently testing another device. T-Mobile offered a COMPAQ 6315 combination GSM cell phone, PDA and WIFI handheld. While T-Mobile never stated that the phone/PDA would support WIFI voice over IP, others reported that they had successfully run Skype phone calls on it. Skype is a 2 year old company based in Luxembourg that claims to have over 2 million users (see [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)). This seemed to offer everything that one would be looking for. The MiCTA technology committee authorized me to purchase a phone for testing. I have been able to get SKYPE working on the phone although early test calls report marginal sound quality. Skype has other features that do work well such as messaging and file transfer. There is an interesting article on pages 20-21 of the June 05 issue of Mobile Magazine titled "The Hype Over Skype". I can report that the phone/PDA worked good as a pocket internet surfing device although the small screen of the device is somewhat of a limitation. In fact, it worked well enough that I cancelled T-Mobile's monthly cellular data service in favor of just using it in a WIFI network for internet access.

However, the idea of a wireless phone that employs conventional cell phone technology when in range of a cell tower and wireless WIFI when available is appealing if for no other reason than that WIFI is much faster than cell technology for internet access and the lower cost of calls.

So, will the WIFI phone replace the cell phone? Not soon, but a hybrid phone might. Phone manufacturers are developing hybrid WiFi/Cell-phone combinations. For example, Motorola has announced they will WIFI enabled cell phones that will come preloaded with Skype software. (Interesting new development is that E-Bay is acquiring Skype for 2.5 Billion dollars. Can you imagine what E-BAY will cook up with their new purchase?) WIFI phones have the limitation of lack of E-911 coverage in case of an emergency. Of course, conventional cell phone technology had the same limitation during the first two decades of deployment and the growth was still dramatic.

In summary: as pocket PC WIFI PDA/phone devices improve, this technology has the potential take off due to the rapid deployment of free or low cost WIFI networks in homes, colleges, stores and entire cities. I intend to continue testing such devices and report the results. If you have information to share on this subject, I would appreciate hearing from you. My e-mail address is : [sundstrj@gvsu.edu](mailto:sundstrj@gvsu.edu).

Date: 10/22/05

Time: 06:00 Set up. Fri. set-up 5 p.m.

Harbor Lights School  
3600 152nd Ave  
Holland, Michigan 49424  
GPS Coordinates  
N. 42 49.978  
W. 86 09.341

Contact person: Ken Grimm 616-399-9309  
Tickets: Sue Sedman 616-399-9321

Tables: \$10.00, .  
Does **Not** include  
admission ticket.

Swap Tickets:  
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\$3.00 12 and un-  
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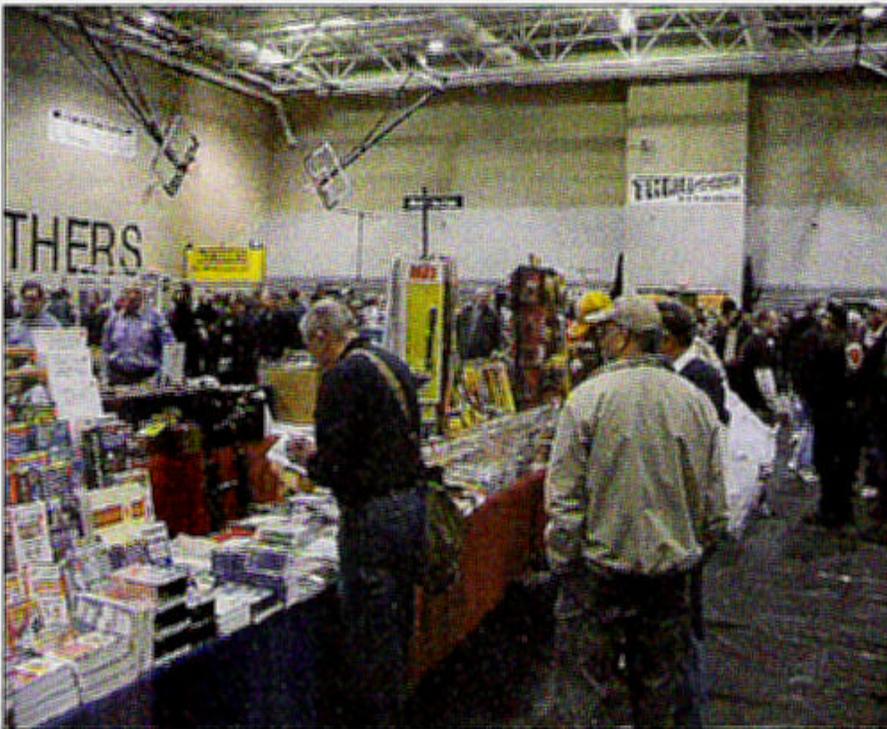
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Holland Amateur Radio Club  
3rd Annual

# 2005

## Great Lakeshore Super Swap



2005 looks set to be another great year in Amateur Radio, and full of events in the Holland Amateur Radio Club. We have run the Great Lakeshore Super Swap for the past two years and it has grown Bigger and better each year.

In 2005 we are planning to have a great swap and hope to make a face-to-face QSO with you.

For an up-to-date list of activities check out our web site.

[WWW.HollandARC.org](http://WWW.HollandARC.org)

### Highlights

- Forums (to be announced)
- Door Prize Giveaways
- VE Testing
- Outside displays
- Helicopter rides

Holland Amateur Radio Club  
3rd Annual

PO Box 2104  
Holland, Michigan 49422-2104  
[www.hollandarc.org](http://www.hollandarc.org)

616-399-9309  
President@HollandARC.org



Talk-Inc  
147.06 MHz  
147.66 MHz  
94.8 Hz PL



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.qsl.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 . 2003 Dues are \$ 35.00 individual and \$ 45.00 family. 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.

**North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club**

**Box 44**

**Ferrysburg, MI 49409**

**Postmaster: Return Requested**