

## North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

### SPARK for APRIL 2003

## Presidential Proverbs

Well here it is April already! So grasp on to something because we have a lot to lay on you.

We have already acquired several new Hams from our Ham class and some that just crawled out of the cracks; in addition I get a lot of emails through the NOARC home page about other forthcoming Hams. So if you take notice of some of the new KC8W'S on the air give them a warm welcome for the reason that they are more than likely sprung from the hard work of all who were involved with the class of 2003. For events, first off there is the Cadillac Swap then Big Daddy Dayton and then Hudsonville swap then probably some swaps I forgot about and then the State of Michigan Convention to be held in Holland Michigan this year. And, yes we will have a table at each and every one of these swaps for you to vend radio gear surplus to your requirements, at no charge to you. Just an advantage of being a NOARC member! Isn't it great? Oh and field day, don't forget about that, I am told that there will be a feast of meals, for all you Hams that just come to eat and a new spot to operate from. With a whole week-end to become proficient at real emergency operations, not just of the vhf uhf kind but the whole pie.

There has been rumor of a train ride to Chicago to the Broadcast Museum, and of a big event involving the use of a big park and some of your favorite antennas, more on that in the future. Speaking of antennas I hear that Lou N8KYO is due to arrive in god's country any minute now, so stay tuned for that.

I am sure that Don KB8ODB will be looking for some support on different runs and so forth this summer so please help Don when you can, these types of events put us in the public eye instead of Hams being a best kept secret.

It has also been brought to my attention that the emergency power system that supports the 145.490 super repeater system has been brought up to standards to protect us from power outages. We need to have the repeater running 24/7 especially in the severe weather months. And just in case the OCEC or SAR need to commandeer it, they have in the past supported the system with donations to the upkeep of the system and we look forward to more of this kind of support.

I take it when nothing is heard on this end about club matters from the membership that all is well and so far all seems to be well. If there are any concerns about or ideas for future events please feel free to contact me, [n8hcs@arrl.net](mailto:n8hcs@arrl.net). Just one last thing that I have been thinking about, we keep calling ourselves amateurs and I think that to public service people it has been taken as non professional so my new project is to take the word amateur out of my Ham Radio dictionary and replace it with Ham or Specialized Communicator, Radio Operator, or how about Communication Service Providers (CSP's) I have been at this for 20 years now and don't believe that I am a Amateur but a CSP.

Thanks for reading and b c n u a little further down the log, 73, de N8HCS, AR, SK

## Treasurer's Report Account Status as of March 20, 2003:

Beginning Balance of all accounts was \$5898.90, of which checking and savings totaled \$5144.17, and the NOARC endowment fund balance of \$754.73.

Income for the period: \$.57 of which \$.57 was interest on savings.

Expenses for the period: \$37.52; 28.00 to Lohn Malinoski, for Marshall Hamfest; \$9.52 to Greg Schippers for copying February newsletter.

Ending balance of all accounts: \$5861.95 of which checking and savings total \$5107.22, and the NOARC endowment fund total balance is \$754.73

Please note the chart below represents the status of all club funds at the end of the period:

General Fund: \$4832.22  
Repeater Fund: \$0  
Digital Fund: \$275.00  
Endowment Fund \$754.73

Total all funds \$5861.95  
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This period there were no expenses incurred for the Te-Ne-Ke project, and no revenues. The total revenue generated to date are \$4661.36. This IS reflected in the general account balance in the above ledger.

Please continue to support this important project!!

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73, Greg Schippers, KC8HXO

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

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

<b>April 15 N8YQD John</b>	<b>June 3 N8PFC Brad</b>
<b>April 22 KB8HU Charlie</b>	<b>June 10 N8YQD John</b>
<b>April 29 N8HCS Don</b>	<b>June 17 WA8CTK Mike</b>
<b>May 6 KB8VEE Tom</b>	<b>June 24 N8HCS Don</b>
<b>May 13 N8LBG Woody</b>	
<b>May 20 KC8JWA Bev</b>	
<b>May 27 KF8NS Dean</b>	

## Upcoming Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>April 15th:</b>	<b>Home Defense Class—See below.</b>
<b>April 24:</b>	<b>NOARC Club Meeting Topic : To Be announced</b>
<b>May 3 :</b>	<b>Cadillac Ham Fest (club table avail).</b>
<b>May 7 –10th</b>	<b>Holland Tulip Time (hams needed—see article elsewhere)</b>
<b>May 16-18:</b>	<b>Dayton Hamfest (club table avail). Group Camping at the Dayton KOA</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Hudsonville Ham Fest (club Table Available)</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Field Day</b>

On April 15, 2003, Bill Smith is having a class on what we can do for Homeland Defense. Bill has open this class up all amateurs in Ottawa County. This class will be held at the Fillmore Complex starting at 7PM.

### Club Officers :

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Don Smith, N8HCS</b>	<b>846-1938</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Dean Whitney, KF8NS</b>	<b>842-0976</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Greg Schippers - KC8HXO</b>	<b>847-0238</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>John Sundstrom, N8YQD</b>	<b>847-4249</b>
<b>Program Director:</b>	<b>Ed Summers, KC8LBZ</b>	<b>798-7055</b>

## FCC Probes Alleged Michigan Repeater Violations

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 14, 2002--The FCC has ordered a Michigan Amateur Radio repeater to cease operating under automatic control while the agency's Enforcement Bureau investigates allegations of various FCC rule violations. FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth sent a *Warning Notice* February 24 to the repeater's co-owners, Sheri A. Gilbert, K5YHA, and William E. Gilbert, K5EKP, of Lupton. The repeater now is off the air.

"The Commission is aware of numerous rule violations on the repeater and of interference caused by the repeater to the K8GER repeater system," Hollingsworth said. "Violations on the repeater have consisted of failure to identify by users, use of false or misleading call signs by users and failure to have a control operator for the repeater."

The K8GER machine, on 145.25 MHz, is owned by Gerald A. Crawford of Luzerne, Michigan. ARRL repeater data show the Gilberts operate several 2-meter and 70-cm machines, but the FCC probe involves one on 146.70 MHz. Hollingsworth told ARRL that an apparent spur on 144.615 MHz was interfering with the input of Crawford's system at 144.65 MHz. He said the Gilberts have notified the FCC that they've shut down their repeater and are looking into the problems.

The order removing automatic control privileges means a repeater must have a live control operator present at the machine's control point whenever it's in operation.

Hollingsworth also said that sometime in January, the couple apparently turned the operation of the repeater over to a car rally and rule violations such as he'd described occurred for more than 12 hours during a two-day period.

"The decision to operate a repeater is a totally voluntarily one. Repeaters are a convenience in the Amateur Radio Service, not a necessity," Hollingsworth said, reprising a refrain he's used in dealing with other repeater cases in recent months. He reminded the Gilberts that a repeater is just like any other Amateur Radio station and must have a licensee and control operator. Control operators "must ensure the immediate proper operation of a station, regardless of the type of station control," Hollingsworth said, noting that automatic control does not mean "unattended operation," which is not authorized under Part 97 rules.

"You must prevent recurring and deliberate violations on your repeater by locking rule violators out, using tones, warning users, limiting its operation or taking whatever steps necessary commensurate with your responsibility as the licensee of the station," Hollingsworth advised the Gilberts. "If you are unable to do so, then you must shut down your station." The consequences of not heading off violations on the K5YHA/K5EKP repeater could be fines and even license suspension or revocation proceedings, he said. In addition to asking the Gilberts to describe what actions they've taken to resolve complaints of interference to the K8GER repeater, Hollingsworth also asked for information on how the repeater identifies and any steps taken to ensure that users of the repeater properly identify.

He also asked the couple to detail how the repeater was controlled during the January car rally and to list by name, address and telephone number any users during that event who did not use call signs.

FCC Detroit District Director James Bridgewater issued the order February 28 to remove the Gilberts' automatic control privileges for the K5YHA/K5EKP repeater until the enforcement issues had been resolved.

## Holland Club is Asking for Help for tulip Time

**I am pleased to say after a two-year hiatus in pursuit of "higher learning" I am back to take an active role in the Club's support of Tulip Time.**

**It's that time of year again when Dave Lamer, WA8RSA and myself start recruiting for communication help for Red Cross teams with the Tulip Time festival parades. For those who have participated in the past we thank you and ask that you consider helping out again this year. For those who have never helped at public service event this would be an excellent introduction public safety communications and a very enjoyable time as well. The success of these events is only possible with YOUR help and commitment.**

**The dates for 2003 are Wednesday and Thursday May 7th & 8th, and Saturday, May 10th. Wednesday & Thursday parades will need a time commitment of approximately 2-4pm. Saturday is from 11-5pm. More information to follow!  
Please reply to: kb8wch@hotmail.com**

73,

**Ignacio "Nacho" Perez, KB8WCH  
Assistant Coordinator, Communications Support.**

## WHY SUPPORT the ARRL. By Dick Mondro

Imagine if ARRL could double in size in a few short years! Imagine the great projects that we could take on! It is possible, and it's all up to those of us that believe in Our League, the Affiliated Clubs and the membership that is the heart and pulse of our clubs and ARRL. Make no mistake about it, when we speak of ARRL or The League, we are talking about a national membership association specifically for amateur radio operators, for all of us. We are the ARRL and our support makes it what it is. Founded in 1914 by Hiram Percy Maxim, today ARRL is the largest organization of radio amateurs in the United States. ARRL is a "not for profit" organization that promotes interest in amateur radio operation and experimentation, but also represents radio amateurs in legislative matters affecting our very existence. ARRL Headquarters employs a staff of 120 people to provide us with needed services. I have been a member for over forty years and I had no idea of the professionalism and dedication that exists in the headquarters complex. I was amazed when I was able to see, with my own eyes, the work being done for all of us within those walls. It is truly awe inspiring and you must really see it to understand the passion with which these men and women put forth for our benefit. Many of our clubs and other membership organizations have been losing members recently. We are dis-associating ourselves with others. More and more, as a society and as individuals, we are missing out on the camaraderie and a sense of pride in belonging to an organization that is unique to us as individuals and based on our skills and interests. How can we correct that? We can start with the first step, getting involved in service to the public. It takes more than simply joining to make us a part of Amateur Radio's public service team. Belonging requires action such as commitment and training. Let's take a look at the Basis and Purpose of Part 97, that regulates the amateur radio service. The very first item states, "Recognition and enhancement of the values of the amateur radio service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." These words tell me that, as a condition of my license, I am responsible to the public, the citizens of my community, state and nation, to provide my voluntary services by providing communications when needed. Most of us are blessed to have a very unique talent in our ability to provide communications. We can best do that by volunteering our skills to the amateur radio emergency service. To provide this service, we must first have a basic understanding of what is expected of us and how to effectively provide a much needed service. To gain this understanding we must first be trained in the types of services and procedures to be used as well as understanding the organization itself. If you act soon the second step, training, won't cost you anything but your time thanks to the grant to the ARRL from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). This federal grant to enhance homeland security already has funded the training and certification of hundreds of amateurs through the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course. As a result, the Amateur Radio community is better prepared than ever to heed the call whenever and wherever a natural disaster or other catastrophe may strike. This grant is tangible evidence that the federal government sees us as partners in the effort to ensure the security of our nation and its citizens. There is another step that you can use to explain to others why you are volunteering your time to public service. It is a short, six minute video entitled "Amateur Radio Today", produced by ARRL. This should be used in promoting Amateur Radio to non-amateur audiences throughout the country. Take the time to watch it. (Check the ARRL Web site for availability.) You will swell with pride as you watch and hear one of the most respected and recognized Americans of all time extol the virtues of Amateur Radio, which means so much to all of us. But don't stop there. In the words of Dave Sumner K1ZZ, ARRL Executive Vice President, "As you watch the sailboat in the closing scene, imagine that it represents Amateur Radio and think about where you are on the screen. Are you helping trim the sails? Are you helping maintain a steady hand on the tiller? Or are you out of sight beneath the surface, perhaps a barnacle, not impeding progress very much but just along for the ride while others do the work?" We have been blessed with many talents and skills and now is the time to use them in the service to our communities. Let's not just go along for the ride, but instead provide direction and purpose to our served agencies through ARES. Keep your local radio clubs strong by providing support and participation. While we are at it, with all the pride in being involved in the only failsafe communication service in the world, let us all look to a friend or colleague and convince them that League membership is important to keep the wheels in motion and to keep amateur radio safe for our posterity. We cannot afford any more cuts in services provided to us due to lack of funding. It is up to us to provide for amateur radio, so that it's future is insured in the years to come. Promoting ARRL and amateur radio is not the sole responsibility of the Headquarters Staff. They do a fine job from all aspects but that is not enough. We must all accept responsibility to sell ARRL Membership and promote all the good that we have all derived from ARRL, The National Organization for Amateur Radio. Please join me in getting the message out.

73, Dick Mondro W8FQT

Vice Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division.

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## ITEMS FOR SALE

**For Sale: Dentron MLA 2500 Amplifier. On Owner in excellent condition and has original manual. Power is 230 or 120/60 Hz. 2000 Watts PEP for SSB and 1000 Watts for all other modes. Check E-Bay as prices normally go for \$500-600. Will sell to area Ham for \$400 and save high shipping costs. Liscensed Hams only. Dale, KR8N. 616-846-1737**

**For Sale (club project) : Charger and 4 AA Nickle Metal Hydride Batteries new and waranteed \$12.00 . Also 4 -AA packs of same batteries for \$8.00 per pack. These are Quest Batteries by Harding Energy of Muskegon and are warrantied for one year. See John Sundstrom, N8YQD. Will be available at Cadillac, Dayton and Hudsonville Ham Fests, club meetings and at coffee at Russ's Tuesday night after net.**

**For Sale : NOARC club hats for \$10.00 each. See John Sundstrom**

## Local Amateurs participate in Mock Disaster Drill

BY GENA KAISER gkaiser@grandhaventribune.com

A smoke machine and sound effects simulated an explosion in the chemistry lab. Alarm bells then began ringing in the empty hallways. Moments later, students and staff, made up to look like they had suffered burns, cuts and bruises, stumbled out of the building screaming for help. Then fire trucks, ambulances and other emergency vehicles started streaming toward the school building. The scene at Grand Haven High School Monday afternoon looked as though a real emergency had taken place. But the event was actually a mock disaster to test how prepared the Grand Haven school district and local emergency personnel are to handle an actual crisis at an area school. "It's the closest you can come to the real thing. If you didn't do this, you wouldn't know what a real life situation would look like," said Grand Haven Superintendent Rick Kent. "It's invaluable."

Local police, fire, emergency services (including ham radio operators) and medical personnel responded to the mock disaster as though an explosion had actually occurred in a high school lab. About 250 high school students and some school staff volunteered to portray "victims," and wore makeup to depict various injuries from broken bones to chemical burns. Some students were "treated" at the scene and transported to North Ottawa Community Hospital, while other students were evacuated to White Pines Middle School. The Ottawa County HazMat Team analyzed what chemicals were involved in the explosion and worked to neutralize the situation. Law enforcement swept through the building, and firefighters prepared hoses and worked to determine the cause of the explosion. Grand Haven Township Fire Chief Rich Szczepanek said that Monday's event gave him a better idea of how much manpower would be needed for an actual emergency at the high school. "If we were to have a real emergency there, I know that I will have to call for more additional resources maybe a lot sooner than I would have before yesterday," he said this morning. Ottawa County Sheriff Gary Rosema added that the goal of the exercise was to look at their ability to gather resources from various law enforcement, fire departments and emergency services and keep communication lines open. "The biggest thing we always find out whenever we do these types of exercises is that information and communication are always critical," Rosema said. "I think it's important given the times we're living in," Zaugra said of the drill. "It's important to respond quickly to the safety and health of our students." While the drill only involved about 250 students, school officials said that the drill will help them to develop procedures for an emergency involving a larger number of students and staff. "I think by going through this it gives us a chance to think about these issues and how we would deal with them with 1,800 more students," said high school Principal Scott Grimes. Kent said he was very pleased with the drill overall, adding that school officials became acquainted with emergency responders and were able to see how they can work together.

"I think it's a really good idea. That way they are prepared in case (an emergency) does happen," sophomore Katie Moteberg said of the drill. Her classmate, Rachel Pietrangelo agreed, saying, "Especially with a school this size, we need to be prepared, and kids need to know where they're going and what to do if an unlikely situation like this were to happen." The Grand Haven Township Fire Department and Mutual Aid Departments, the Ottawa County HazMat Team, the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, the Grand Haven Department of Public Safety, North Ottawa Community Hospital, Holland Community Hospital, Zeeland Community Hospital, Ottawa County Emergency Management, **Ottawa County Amateur Radio**, Ottawa County Central Dispatch Authority, HazMat Solutions Inc. and the Michigan State Police all took part in the event.

**Dues Renewal Form. Dues are : Single \$30, Family \$40 . Please mail to Box 44 Ferrysburg, MI 49409**

Name

Call

Address

City

State

zip

E-mail address

Phone number

## APRIL ECHO LINK REPORT By Andrew Young, N8ARY

Well, the Echo link station has been on the air for a few months, and it looks like most of the "novelty" has worn off. It is not being used quite as much, but the capability to access it from Edmonton, Alberta or New Orleans, Louisiana is there if you want it, which is what counts. Despite his worldly travels, I don't think Craig Christilaw has missed a Tuesday Night Net since the station has been on the air.

In the near future, we (John Bunda and I) plan to install a better antenna on the station so the signal into the repeater will be better. Currently, it is running 5 watts into a rubber duck antenna on the back of the computer/radio station.

Earlier this month, I submitted our station to the database at <http://www.echolinkmap.org/>. This is a website with maps of specific areas and depictions of the coverage areas of the registered stations.

Have fun with it!!

Connect: #C plus Node Number Random Connect: #01 Disconnect: #73

Disable link from the 145.49 : #000 Enable: #111

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### **Minutes of the March 2003 Meeting by John, N8YQD**

1. Meeting called to order by John, N8YQD as Don was not feeling well.
2. Introduction of members & guests.
3. There will be a emergency exercise Monday April 3. An explosion in the Senior High School will be simulated with mass casualties. Several NOARC and Ottawa County hams will participate. See Story on Page 6.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Thanks to Dan Wisman for recording minutes while I was in Florida.
5. Sundstrom briefed the club on a battery selling project. A four pack Nickle Metal Hydride battery & charger unit will be sold for \$12.00. Also, four packs of just the batteries will be sold for \$8.00. We will sell thye batteries at all of the upcoming hamfests. The batteries are produced by Harding Energy of Muskegon and are warrantied.
6. The 50/50 drawing was won by Tom Fisher.
7. The attendees were treated to a demonstration by Jim, KC8PCJ of his portable emergency packet and UHF station that is self contained and self powered .

# How to build an Unscientific, Discombobulated Antenna Tuner

Andrew Young

N8ARY

In my endeavors to "nail together" some of the junk I have rolling around in my basement, I found two identical 100 pF variable capacitors. After a little thought, ARRL handbook research, and internet browsing, I compiled enough information to take a stab at making an antenna tuner.

If you go to the AES website, you would think these things are either made of gold or at least have some expensive and magical components in them based on the prices they fetch. I found out I was over halfway there with the two capacitors. A trip to Radio Shack (Yes, I said Radio Shack, otherwise known as the 'That's Been Discontinued Store') was all I needed to get the rest. I picked up a 6-position selector switch, two RF chassis connectors, and an aluminum box.

Now came the difficult part- Where to get the inductor. You see, you need an inductor to add inductance to a system with a short antenna, which has too much capacitance. I guess you could just use the capacitors alone to tune a really long antenna (which has too much inductance), but I was thinking about using this antenna tuner mobile.

Mobile means short, inefficient antennas at frequencies below 10 meters. Where was I? Oh Yes! The inductor. I looked on e-bay for roller inductors and called around, but those things are expensive when you want something for nothing, as most of us Hams do. While I pondered this, I leaned back in my chair and looked at the basement ceiling. "I really ought to change that water filter," I thought. "HEY! What if I use one of those threaded pieces of PVC pipe for a form?" That's what I did. I threaded a piece of PVC pipe in a pipe threader and wound some solid wire around it (25-30 turns).

Next, I soldered a piece of wire to each end and four more evenly spaced along the length of the coil. There was my variable inductor. I mounted all the parts in the aluminum box and soldered them together kind of like the attached schematic. I coiled up the last tap to add a little more inductance to the last switch position- Kind of like overdrive.

Anyway, here was an antenna tuner I built but I had no idea if it would work because I pretty much just slapped together a few parts without making any calculations.

I connected my new homemade tuner between my SWR meter and antenna and was able to tune my 20 meter dipole down to 40 meters with a 1:1 SWR. Some guy in Pennsylvania could hear me and I talked to him for a few minutes. I was so excited I forgot to write down his call sign. I had a little more difficulty tuning my long wire with it. That's probably because there isn't enough capacitance in those 100 pF capacitors.

Anyway, my point is, you can build an antenna tuner from some of the stuff you have lying around your basement or garage if you happen to be a packrat like most of us are. If not, go to AES and pick one up for \$120-\$150.

In your face, MFJ!

73 de N8ARY

Please see page 9 for pictures of Andrew's Homebuilt antenna Tuner—editor.



**N8ARY'S HOMEBUILT ANTENNA TUNER**



