



North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

SPARK

January, 2003

From Don Smith, N8HCS

Presidents Perspective

Here it is almost Ham fest season already. I hope you have all your hunting equipment ready. Make a big list and remember you will probably want to put up some new wire this summer so it's a god idea to have plenty of that on hand. Insulators and connectors?

Yes even you can LOOK like a big spender on a SMALL budget.

The Cadillac Swap will probably be the one to look at if you're a seller of ham stuff because though they have a room full of venders there are a ton of buyers there.

The Marshall swap Is one you can get anything at or sell anything. So far nothing in Michigan that I have been to compares to the Marshall Swap.

Don't for get Hudsonville that is a cool swap, you go there on Friday afternoon a camp. Help out with setting up a little and then go the Great Road kill Chile Cook off and Pot luck. You shouldn't miss that. I have a big Trailer and several tents if anyone want to go early let me know.

This fall we will be having the State convention right here in Western Michigan. Now I know that a lot of you and probably most of you KB or KC calls remember the State Convention swap at the Muskegon Community College but picture room to room, wall to wall, floor to ceiling radio equipment. WOW and gear was a lot bigger then too. With a lot of prizes, and ceremonies, lectures and presentations.

I think what happened is the guys in Muskegon just got too old to do all this anymore, it is a ton of work you know, so if you hear Chuck, W8GCW, down in Holland wanting some help and you are available, go for it and it will be worth 100% return on your effort, just the bragging rights alone!!

Well hopefully I got you in the mood for Hunting Equipment this summer. Oh by the way don't forget that there are a couple of guys in our club including KC*HXO and myself that buy sell and trade equipment all year round, we would be the professional hunters you know.

Don't forget the Club meeting is This Thursday, Feb. 27, 7:00 PM at the White Pines Middle school Cafeteria in Grand Haven..... Programming to be announced....

73 for now. See you at the swaps

N8HCS.

Report from Florida by John N8YQD

First I would like to thank Greg Schippers, KC8HXO, for once again doing the newsletter while I am in Florida. I will be back on the job next month for the March 03 edition. Sally and I are staying near the pretty town of Vero Beach in a very nice place called Ocean View. Ocean View started out as campgrounds and at some point went cooperative whereby the lots are all owned by the residents. Ocean View is located on Highway A1A on an Island and has both frontage on the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian River. As I write this in late February, the weather is typically high 70's and clear every day.

Sally and I are living in a 29' fifth wheel camper that we bought used after we decided to rent a lot in Ocean View when we visited it in October, 2002 as guests of Jim & Candy Wolter. Most of you know Jim As W9BWC.

For Amateur Radio fun, I have concentrated on use of the IRLP system this winter. Vero Beach has A 70 cm repeater on 444.7250 MHz that has been connected by the owner to the IRLP system. It is node number 4580. I had problems at first getting into it as we are about 15 miles from the repeater and I was Trying to get into it with my underpowered hand held and a poor mobile whip. The only other 70 cm radio that I had with me was my 5 watt Yaseu FT-817 but with no DTMF microphone. In order to make it work, I ended up visiting AES in Orlando and buying the matching tone mike and a good 70 cm mobile antenna. I also had my high gain 70 cm Ringo Ranger base antenna shipped down here. Moral: for IRLP success you need more than a handheld in your travels. Ideally, you would have a high power mobile rig with a good gain antenna. I now monitor node 4580 when I am mobile and have worked many of the NOARC hams. I also leave the FT-817 on when I am outside. Last week, I listened to the Tuesday night net via the IRLP and a crossband hookup courtesy of Tom Nuyens N8GNA. Also, more people need to monitor our local IRLP repeater W8GVK, 444.550.

In late January, I spent a week in Orlando working on a project with my College Association people. While in Orlando, I was able to make IRLP contact with Lou Meisch, N8KYO, via the KD4Z IRLP node no 4510. Lou is actually located in Eustis, which is about 40 miles north of Orlando. In order to hit the repeater from such an extreme range, Lou used a beam and a high power 70 CM amplifier that Don Smith sent to him. I was actually in Kissimmee, Florida in a hotel room about 15 miles south of Orlando, and I needed my Ringo Ranger pressed up against the hotel window in order to hit the KD4Z repeater.

At this point, we all need to stop and express our gratitude to people like Hank Reikels, W8GVK and John Bunda, KC8NCE who collaborated to provide our local IRLP link (Hank provided the excellent repeater and John provided the internet backbone, router, ect).

I also experimented with the ECHO LINK from Florida but my success was not near as good due to my very very slow internet connection. More about that in next month's article.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

Account Status as of January 22, 2003:

Beginning Balance of all accounts was \$5897.64, of which checking and savings totaled \$5172.04, and the NOARC endowment fund balance of \$725.60.

Income for the period: \$500.72 of which \$.72 was interest on savings, \$235.00 was from Te-Ne-Ke sales; \$20.00 from Greg Poel for 2 Sections Tower; \$40.00 from 50/50 Drawings from October and November Club meetings; \$205.00 was from club dues.

Expenses for the period: \$345.00; \$325.00 to Seabury-Smith for Annual insurance premium; \$20.00 for expenses for Lowell hamfest.

Ending balance of all accounts: \$6082.49 of which checking and savings total \$5327.76, 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:	\$5052.76
Repeater Fund:	\$0
Digital Fund:	\$275.00
Endowment Fund	\$754.73

Total all funds \$6082.49

This period there were no expenses incurred for the Te-Ne-Ke project, and \$235 in revenues. The total revenue generated to date are \$4637.36. This IS reflected in the general account balance in the above ledger. Please continue to support this important project!!

Hams help with Columbia recovery

By Gary Krakow
MSNBC

Feb. 9 -ACCORDING TO THE national membership association for amateur radio, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), ham radio volunteers are currently assisting federal, state and local officials and relief organizations in Texas in their search for shuttle Columbia debris and the remains of the crew members. Amateur radio operators must pass rigorous tests to receive a license and a call sign from the Federal Communications Commission — clearing them to broadcast radio, TV or data signals on frequencies set aside for their use.

ARRL officials say local efforts following the Columbia disaster have been a great success.

“Ham radio has proven to be the only reliable communications options during the recovery effort,” according to Tim Lewallen (call sign KD5ING) of the Nacogdoches, Texas, Amateur Radio Club.

“The communications systems used by other federal and state organizations cannot penetrate ‘The Pine Curtain’ as we know it in East Texas,” he said. “The dense forests and hilly terrain just swallow up most radio traffic, and even county sheriff and county fire department radio systems have serious blind spots.” According to Lewallen, federal authorities have requested that every survey team have at least one amateur radio operator along to help keep the recovery efforts coordinated and organized.

In South Texas, there are requests for hams that are still needed to assist in the search effort — with an urgent need for operators in the San Augustine County, where substantial debris remains to be recovered. Local coordinators say two-to-four dozen operators are needed each day and they expect the need to continue for the next three weeks.

Hams are using local amateur radio clubs’ repeaters — which are receiver-transmitter combinations, usually installed on top of tall buildings that take low power radio signals and re-broadcast them at elevated power to a large area. Dallas County volunteers are being told they should use high-powered radios in the recovery effort because handheld “walkie-talkies” don’t have the necessary range. It’s also recommended they bring four-wheel drive vehicles, portable GPS (global positioning systems) and even laptop computers with mapping programs if they’re not familiar with the area.

Area residents with VHF scanners can listen in on the recovery effort. In the Dallas area, activities can be monitored on 146.96 MHz; in Nagadoches on 147.32 MHz, in St. Augustine on 146.74 MHz, and on a portable repeater in East Texas on 146.66 MHz. Yesterday, a Dallas resident who’s been listening told MSNBC.com there were several reports of “hazardous materials” being found and that “demolition experts” were called in to assist in the recovery.

Public service communication has been a traditional responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service since 1913. Today, disaster work is highly organized and implemented principally through a number of different ARRL groups including the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, or R.A.C.E.S. — an organization of ham radio operators who volunteer their time and equipment to provide supplemental communication to local, county or state agencies during times of crisis or disaster.

Three of the Columbia astronauts were licensed amateur radio operators: Mission Specialists Kalpana Chawla, KD5ESI; David Brown, KC5ZTC; Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU. They aren’t alone — many people associated with the space program have been active in amateur radio, including businessmen Dennis Tito, KG6FZX, and the three astronauts still circling the earth in the International Space Station — Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, Don Pettit, KD5MDT and Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB. Even astronaut hopeful Lance Bass of ‘N Sync is a ham — KG4UYY.

The three current space station astronauts are manning NA1SS, the first permanent amateur radio station in space. Use of NA1SS has been temporarily curtailed. Last week, the astronauts were scheduled to make radio contact with high school students in Germany. The session was postponed. But, according to the ISS governing group, space station contacts are expected to resume later this month.

NOARC Club dues: Single: \$30.00 per Year, Family: \$40.00 per year. Please mail to: NOARC PO Box 44, Ferrysburg, MI 49409

Name:..... Call:.....

Address:.....State:.....Zip.....

Email Address (if available).....



2003 42nd ANNUAL

Michigan Crossroads Hamfest

Marshall, Mich.

At Marshall High School

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*** Vendor Set Up at 6:00 a.m.***

SATURDAY MARCH 15th,

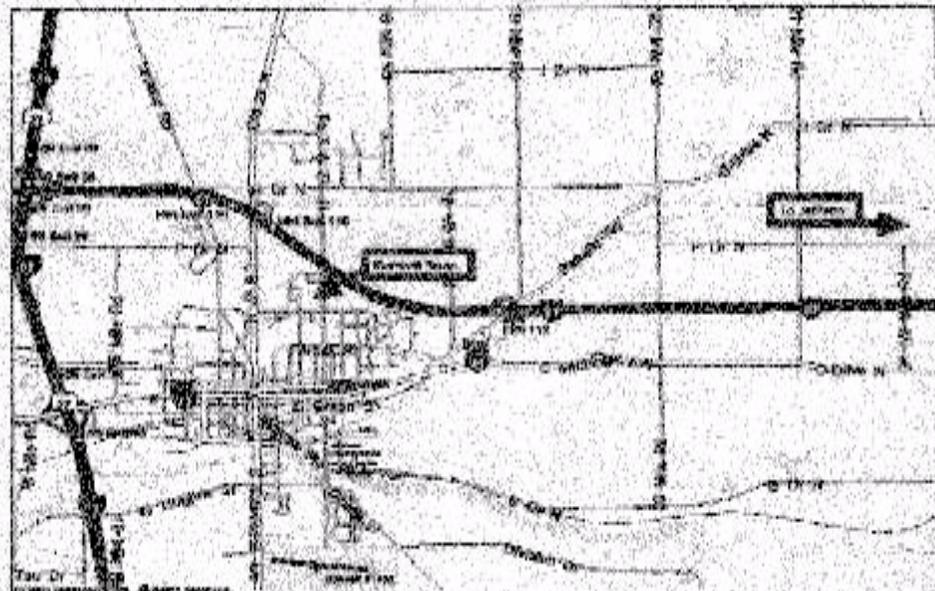


TABLE RESERVATIONS
 \$1.00 per foot (min 4 ft.)
 Reserved until 8:00 a.m.
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SMARS.

Send SASE to:
SMARS
 John Malinowski
 20577 Division Dr
 Marshall, MI 49068

Or call:
 John Malinowski N8BGM
 616-781-4540
 N8BGM@aol.com

**TABLE RENTAL IS NOT
 A TICKET TO
 HAMFEST**

**** TALK IN 146.86 **
 REPEATER
 &
 146.52 SIMPLEX**

Come Join The Fun
 See All Your Old Friends
 And Buddies

Tickets
\$5.00 at the door
\$4.00 in advance (sase)
FREE CARRY IN HELP
FREE PARKING
FULL FOOD SERVICE

SPONSORS:
 SOUTHERN MICHIGAN
 AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
 John Malinowski Chairman

MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL
 INDUSTRIAL ARTS CLUB
 Kelly Williams-High School
 Coordinator

To order table space - Complete and mail to - SMARS, John Malinowski-20577 Division Dr-Marshall, MI 49068

Number of 8-foot tables requested at \$8.00 each _____ Total amount for table rental _____

Minimum order is 4 feet.

Table rental is not a ticket to Ham fest. Advanced tickets may be ordered with table space at \$5.00

Each. Number of tickets requested _____ Total amount for advance tickets _____

Name _____ Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone(s) _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

If you had sales space at our 2002 Ham fest and wish to have the same space for the 2003 Ham fest please call
 John Malinowski N8BGM 269-781-4540 or email at N8BGM@aol.com.

Your reservations for table space will be appreciated as early as possible.

Keep in mind this event is held at a public high school. No smoking in school buildings. No smoking on school grounds.
 Adult material, alcohol, and weapons of any kind are prohibited. We will hold your table(s) until 8:00 AM on Ham Fest Day

Upcoming Hamfests:

March, 2003

15 - Marshall Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society 42nd Annual Michigan Crossroads Hamfest. Marshall High School. Talk-in: 146.660 repeater and 146.520 simplex. Adm: \$5, \$4 in advance. Tables: \$1 per foot, minimum of 4 feet. Contact John, N8BGM, 616-781-4540 or n8bgm@aol.com

May, 2003

3rd - Cadillac Wexauke ARC 41st Annual Amateur Radio and Computer Swap. Doors open at 8 AM. Cadillac Junior High School. Swap & Shop, vendors, electronics, computers, food, refreshments. VE exams. Meetings: UP Net, QCWA. Talk-in: 146.980. Adm: \$5. Tables: \$8. Contact Wexauke Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 163, Cadillac, MI 49601, or Brian Polk, KC8TXT, 231-743-6860 or bandb@netonecom.net

(NOARC has registered for tables at BOTH of these Hamfests. All club members are welcomed, and encouraged to come out, and sell your items on the tables. Please contact Don Smith or Greg Schippers for more information)

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

If you are unable to keep your appointment as Net Control, **please** arrange for a replacement. Mark your calendar, PDA, etc. to remind yourself of your date.

Jan 28 Mike Martens WA8CTK
Feb 4 Charlie Osborn KB8HU
11 Don Smith N8HCS
18 Tom Vandermel KB8VEE
25 Woody Alrich N8LBG
MAR 4 Beverly Traxler KC8JWA

Club Officers:

PRESIDENT:	Don Smith, N8HCS	846-1938
Vice-President:	Dean Whitney, KF8NS	842-0976
Treasurer:	Greg Schippers - KC8HXO	847-0238
Secretary:	John Sundstrom, N8YQD	847-4249
Program Director:	Ed Summers, KC8LBZ	231-798-7055
Newsletter Editor:	John Sundstrom, N8YQD	847-4249

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

Tone control 491=off; 490-on

Time of day 749

“ S” meter read back 7

Touch tone pad test 5

Phone patch

*** followed by phone number**

t o disconnect

**** redial last number**

911 calls Ottawa County Central Dispatch (DO NOT DIAL # FIRST!!!)

912 call Muskegon County Dispatch (DO NOT DIAL # FIRST!!)

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 \$ 30.00 individual and \$ 40.00 family.

Please send dues to NOARC Box 44, Ferrysburg, MI 49409

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Box 44

Ferrysburg, MI 49409

Postmaster: Return Requested