

## North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

### SPARK for June 2003(Field Day Issue)

From President Don Smith . Like I said I would have a little more on Dayton this month so here it is.

We showed up pretty late the Wednesday before the big event, in the rain. Jeff Olson KC8FQH, John N8YQD, and me Don N8HCS, got the tent set up in short order, only this year we had Jeff's tent camper which had a heater in it and we didn't have to sleep on the ground. So we were all warm and wet but happy to have finally arrived at the KOA and after drying out a little bit we went to bed anticipating the next day's activities. (Pre opening bargains)

We woke early Thursday morning and off to breakfast we went, now if you go to the hamfest next year you may just want to have breakfast at the Bob Evans rather than the Waffle World or what ever they call that place across the street where all the locals go to smoke and throw crap on the floor and they also leave the bathroom all sticky. The Bob Evans was a lot cleaner, friendlier and actually less expensive than the Waffle Wonder World across the way.

Thursday morning was actually nice out ( a little windy )so I went to look for some deals I went while John set up the NOARC shelter, and kind of lost track of Jeff for a while until I returned to the booth to help fill up 25 pound sand bags through a two inch hole with wet playground sand but we had fun talking about deals and ham radio pretty soon all the sand bags were full, of course John had organized the van a few times since then already just in case we needed to find something.

The goal of mine was to sell my Icom 737 and buy a new Icom 706 MKIIG, I spent hours and hours of looking around I found no Icom's.

I think Andrew showed up on Thursday also to sell about a thousand dollars worth of radio equipment for two hundred and sixty five dollars and then by a two hundred and sixty dollar one band qrp rig. Oh and you should of seen all the guys around Andrew's car on I think Friday to help Andrew get his keys out of the car which normally isn't to hard unless you lock all the doors first. Looked like a bunch of Cub Scouts trying to set up a Sears and Roebuck Pup Tent. And I had some real good pictures also which got lost in the digital obis somewhere if you remember from last weeks article.

Early on Friday Tom K8000 and Dave KC8THM arrived with a truck load of Motorola stuff to sell. Then they disappeared for a while then we seen them then Tom was off again so Dave and me put on about 31 miles, lots of neat stuff but still no Icoms 706's .

I think everyone went to Dayton this year with expectations of Icom blowing out IC 706-MKIIG's at a very low price and that didn't happen, but what it did do is this: on Thursday and Friday and Saturday till about noon on Saturday there were no used Icom 706's or even Yaesu ft 100's for sale. Then Saturday afternoon BOOM they came out like flies. I think what was happening is that everyone that had these radios were holding on to make sure the rug didn't get pulled out from underneath them, so when they seen they didn't have to sell real low the drug them out from where ever they were hiding and put them up for sale. I walked down one lane of the flea market several times and didn't see a single 706 but Saturday afternoon not 100 feet from the NOARC tent I spotted a 706 MKIIG with a AH 4 tuner and after working the guy over for a while I convinced him to sell it to me at a very reasonable price. . (continued page 4)

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

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

**June 3 N8PFC Brad**

**June 10 N8YQD John**

**June 17 WA8CTK Mike**

**June 24 N8HCS Don**

**July 1 KB8VEE Tom**

**July 8 KC8JWA Bev**

## Upcoming Events

### Date

### Event

June 19

**Homeland Defense Course (see below)**

June 26

**6:30 Feed & Club Meeting at Field Day Site**

June 28-29

**Field Day at Robinson Twp Park on 120th**

July 24

**7 PM Fox Hunt. Meet at Michaels.**

July 26th

**8 AM Coast Guard 5 K Run. Meet at 7:45  
behind Grand Haven Fire Station For assign  
ment of station . 10 AM Fun Run .**

July 31

**Special Event Station. Meet at 8 AM to put  
up antennas. Operate noon 7/31 to noon 8/1.**

August 2

**Coast Guard Parade. 11 AM.**

On June 19, 2003, Bill Smith is having a class on what we can do for Homeland Defense. this class is for all amateurs in Ottawa County. This class will be held at the Fillmore Complex from 7-9.

### 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/SPARK editor:</b>	<b>John Sundstrom, N8YQD</b>	<b>847-4249</b>
<b>Program Director:</b>	<b>Ed Summers, KC8LBZ</b>	<b>798-7055</b>

(Continued from Page One) The big deal is that I didn't need a tuner so when I got back to our booth I was able to give Tom K8000 a very good deal on that which made my 706 a real bargain.

I did find a real good looking Yaesu FT101 and it looked as if it just came out of the wrapper. The guy didn't have the power cord or microphone for it or the fan which was a option on that rig, so I got a real good deal on it and that rig was really clean too even the knobs turned like they were new, I was going to bring it home and get it going but of course John sold it before that could happen. I wished I would of kept it too because a week after Dayton a package came in the mail and in it was a fan for a FT101 atill in the package a Yaesu microphone that was still new looking and a power cord with just some dust on the top of the part that plugs into the radio. Wow! But the rig was long gone, and if I remember from the conversation with the guy and all the other evidence I had I would say the finals in that rig were never turned on. The guy just used it as a receiver before he passed.

Well Saturday came and went with a lot of rain. Got to talk with Gary from Ten-Tec, OH and here is a something I forgot. On Thursday a fellow came to the NOARC booth and was really inspecting the Te Ne Ke's. I didn't sell him one but after he left John said do you know who that was? And I said no, John said that was Gordon West, and I said I wished I would have known that because I had been wanting him to autograph a Te Ne Ke but out of context he was and I missed my chance.

We had such a big group from Grand Haven at Dayton this year. A few of us really couldn't afford it either but I actually came home with as much money than I left with and a new rig a lot of stories and no one mad because I didn't pay my share.

Next year I would hope that everyone from here that has never gone to this event before, try and go. Just sell some gear that is in excess to your needs and it will pay your way and pick up some deals while you are there and resell them while you are there and you may come home with as much as you left with and with some new gear and new stories to tell. It is a lot of fun.

I have looked at the Field Day site for this year and it is a Ham Radio Operator's dream. Lots of trees for antennas and shade. A big open field for kite and balloon antennas. A pavilion to set up a chow hall and Phyllis KC8NLN is in chair person of keeping up fed so you know we will be eating like kings. It is situated in such a way that we won't be disturbing anyone in the neighborhood. I will get Dan Anderson if I can to come out and get things started for us, usually Dan would like a list of silent keys that worked with us in previous field days so if you are attending you may want to keep this in mind and give Dan a name or two that you remember. Also if you need to get in touch with the field day chairman with any questions or ideas just contact Greg [kc8hxo@chartermi.net](mailto:kc8hxo@chartermi.net).

John N8YQD said something on the net Tuesday night that really is very true. He encouraged all new hams that have never attended a field day that they should attend. But what made a lot of sense was this statement: You can learn a lot about ham radio in a short time by attending field day. Think about it, actually you can learn everything from setting up antennas to operating procedures, from camping to eating fine meals. I have been at this radio stuff for a long time and every year at field day I pick up something that I never knew before.

Ok I am at the end of page two so see you at FIELD DAY at the Robinson Park. de N8HCS ar sk 73&88 .

# Ladder Line J-pole

By N8ARY

While at the Hudsonville Hamfest, I stumbled across a guy selling 25-ft lengths of ladder line for \$5. I figured I could use some to do something like make a G5RV, but then I got realistic and decided my current HF antenna is fine with a tuner.

Instead of throwing it out, I thought for a while about what it could be used for. After a while, I decided to try and make a J-pole out of a piece of it. I figured it's GOT to work because they make them out of twin-lead all the time. I know some of us have an aversion to J-poles, but please hear me out and try one yourself.

(By the way, THEY are that pool of people in society who seem to make all the decisions and important discoveries, but are never identified by name because no one knows who THEY are).

First, I found a design on the internet. I have no idea where this yahoo got his design, but it didn't work at first.

Here's how it went:

1. Cut a piece of ladder line 56 inches long.
2. Strip 1 inch of insulation off the ends of the conductors.
3. Bend the stripped ends in and solder them together.
4. Measure up 1.25 inches from the shorted end and cut away some insulation from both conductors.
5. Measure 17 inches?? Where the heck did that number come from? From the shorted end and sever one of the conductors by cutting a 1/4 inch piece out. Now this step confuses me because 1/4 wave on 2 meters is about 19.25 inches.
6. Solder the center conductor of the co-ax to the stripped part of the UNCUT conductor and the shield to the other one.
7. Now this baby resonated great at about 154 MHZ. As built. By adding a 5-inch piece of wire to the end of the uncut conductor, it has a 1.2:1 SWR on 146.500 MHz.

I would be willing to bet that if you were to sever the conductor about 2 inches higher, the extra 5" piece of wire would not be necessary. I still have about 20 feet of ladder line, so I might play around and see where it all went awry. My new antenna works great as it is and I made a contact on the Holton repeater from Grand Haven with 5 watts. Sure beats a rubber duck and it cost me about \$1 more than the co-ax I used to connect it to the radio.

**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

## Details on NOARC's Field Day

All Club Members & Visitors welcome to participate (or just show up for meals).

**Field Day Chairman:** Greg Schippers

**Field Day Location :** Robinson Township Park located off 120 th avenue across from the Fire Barn.

**Event Chairman**

**Antennas :** Lou Meisch & his merry band of helpers.

**Food :** Phyllis Simmons, Beth Olsen, Bonnie Schippers & others

**Publicity :** Andrew Young

**20 Meter Station :** Jeff Olsen

**40 Meter Station :** Dan Whisman

**15/80 Meters :** Lou Meisch

**GOTA Station :** Andrew Young (also VHF Station)

**Solar Panels :** Don Smith, Greg Schippers

**Logging &**

**Computers :** Don Meyers

This year the club is running class 1 B battery (5 watts qrp). Please contact the chairman of the event / station you want to work on to volunteer your time. Below: Pix from 4 years ago.



## Field Day Meals & Schedule

**Thursday 6/26 6:30 PM :** Hot dogs & fixings . Then look over site for antennas, station location, ect. Sign up for station assignment.

**Saturday 6/28 8 AM :** Hot egg dish breakfast. Memorial to silent keys by Rev dan Anderson.

**Saturday 6/28 Noon :** Hot Pizza from Dominoes. Begin making contacts at 2 PM.

**Saturday 6/28 6 PM :** Family style potluck. Bring a dish to pass.

**Sunday 6/29 8 AM :** Breakfast of fruit, muffins & cereal.

**Sunday 6/29 Noon :** Lunch of sandwiches, fruit, ect.

**Sunday 6/29 2 PM :** End making contacts. Take down antennas, stations, clean up area, backup computers, ect. Another great Field Day is history.



Meal time is always fun at field day. Here is a picture from last year's Field Day

