

SPARK for March 2003

FLASH: MEETING IS MARCH 20TH !

Presidents Perspective by Don, N8HCS

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. **Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible for membership in the ARES.** *The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve.* Because ARES is an amateur service, only amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

Where in this paragraph does it say anything about background checks? This says right here in black and white *The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve.*

I have been repeatedly bombarded with questions about the new self proclaimed Ottawa County Emergency Communications formerly ARES who seemed to have broken away from the Amateur radio part of emergency communications. Maybe it is because of (*The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license*) part that they have gone from ARES to OCEC. Please direct all OCEC questions to the EC kb8vee@arrl.net. Tom will help you with any OCEC questions.

If you visit the ARRL website about ARES <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/sec1-ch1.html> It says in section 1.3 Local Level: To this end, SECs have the option of grouping their EC jurisdictions into logical units or "districts" and appointing a District EC to coordinate the activities of the local ECs in the district. Does this also apply to OCEC? Or are they exempt from SEC or ECs? Or can they be ARES and OCEC all at once?

Blah Blah Blah Who Knows?

But my job as President of the NOARC in my mind anyhow (and you voted for me) is to keep a balance and to keep our local group involved in a variety of activities separate of all the other but not excluding Emergency service operations. You can do a lot in our hobby and within our local club, you can do all the EC stuff you want, so if you joined the NOARC just for the Emergency Communications part that's fine too, but you're missing a lot of opportunities that our club has to offer. Already this year we have had two very interesting meetings, and the winter Technician class is well underway. Andrew N8ARY has set up 2 local Echo Link stations (a very popular and forth coming voice over IP mode) for you to use. (continued page 5).

In This Issue:

Page 1: President's Perspective & Table of Contents

Page 2: Net Control Schedule; Treasurer's Report

Page 3: Upcoming NOARC Events; Club officers

Page 4: Report Number 2 from Florida by N8YQD

Page 5: PP continued ; Dues Form (Have you paid your 2003 dues ?)

Page 6 : Repeater use instructions; General Club information.

Treasurer's Report By Greg Schippers Account Status as of February 21, 2003:

Beginning Balance of all accounts was \$6082.49, of which checking and savings totaled \$5327.76, and the NOARC endowment fund balance of \$754.73.

Income for the period: \$250.63 of which \$.63 was interest on savings, \$40.00 was from Te-Ne-Ke sales; \$210.00 was from club dues.

Expenses for the period: \$434.22; \$388.75 To Comtronco for repeater phone/Electric for 2002; \$45.47 to Greg Schippers - (\$16.00 for Te-Ne-Ke Channel, \$22.20 for stamps, and \$7.27 for copying January newsletter).

Ending balance of all accounts: \$5898.90 of which checking and savings total \$5144.17, 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: \$4869.17
Repeater Fund: \$0
Digital Fund: \$275.00
Endowment Fund \$754.73

Total all funds \$5898.90

This period there were \$16.00 in expenses incurred for the Te-Ne-Ke project, and \$40.00 in 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!!

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

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

March 11 KF8NS Dean	April 15 N8YQD John
March 18 N8PFC Brad	April 22 KB8HU Charlie
March 25 N8YQD John	April 29 N8HCS Don
April 1 WA8CTK Mike	
April 8 N8PFC Brad	

Upcoming Events

Date

Event

March 20: NOARC Meeting White Pine Middle School.
Topic Jim Meyers will demonstrate his Portable packet and P-Spice system.

Note: This is a week early in order to accommodate skywarn training held on the 4th Thursday of the month.

March 27: 7 PM Philmore Complex Skywarn Training .

April 19 & 20th: Michigan QSO Party.

April 24: NOARC Club Meeting

May 3 : Cadillac Ham Fest (club table avail).

May 16-18: Dayton Hamfest (club table avail).

ECHOLINK COMMANDS: any questions contact Andrew N8ARY

- >
- > CONNECT= #C followed by node number all in one
- > transmission.
- > DISCONNECT= #73
- > Random Connect= #01
- > RECONNECT TO LAST STATION= #09

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	798-7055

Report Number Two from Florida by John N8YQD

As I mentioned in last month's column, Sally and I are staying near the pretty town of Vero Beach in a very nice park called Ocean View. Ocean View is located on Highway A1A on an Island and has both frontage on the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian River. 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 as guests of Jim & Candy Wolter.

Besides the IRLP network, I also tried using the ECHO LINK which is typically a hookup beginning with a Personal computer that connects to Echo link via the internet and then to another computer elsewhere which may be linked to a local VHF radio. I loaded the software in my laptop before I left Grand Haven and tested it. It seemed to work ok. I had problems using it in Florida because my internet connection was too slow and I experienced "packet delay" which garbled my signals.

For an internet connection, I used my Nextel phone to dial back to Michigan and connect to the College system called MERIT. However, the connection speed was very slow (about 2-3 kilobits per second). This was OK to check e-mail but file transfer (and Echo link) was just about out of the question. However, I did avoid the expense of installing a local phone line and internet provider.

Roger (N8RXD) and Phyllis (KB8NLM) Simmons spent a few weeks in Vero Beach staying with relatives. Sally & I Spent time with them. We enjoyed going to lunch at the "Lobster Shanty" and visiting a local Nature center located on one of the many islands in the Indian River. Simmons hitched up their 22 Catalina sailboat to their Suburban and set out for the Florida Keys in late February. They Live on their boat in the small town of Marathon which is about half way down the 150 mile chain of islands that make up the Keys.

About 2 days a week I checked into the "bathrobe net" which is on 14.235.5 MHZ. For those of you that are not familiar with this net. It meets Monday to Friday at 9 AM. Hams from Grand Haven and Muskegon make up its core. However, people now check in from many states. In the winter, many hams (Like me) head south or out west and they check in to see what's going on back in West Michigan. If you have your General or Extra Class License, check in sometime.

For High Frequency work, I used an ICOM 706 mounted in my van. I mounted a cushcraft 20-17-15-12-10 meter vertical antenna to my camper (see picture below) and I run a coax feed line into the 706 when parked at the QTH. It worked "OK" but I think a dipole would have been better. I also had my little Yaseu FT-817 in the car sitting above the 706. I used the Yaseu for 70 CM access to the IRLP repeaters in Florida. By leaving my rigs in the car, it was a snap to run either mobile or "base".

Well, that's concludes my reports for this winter. Perhaps my story will inspire other traveling hams in the club to write about their adventures.



One is hooked to the local 145.490 repeater and the other is hooked to 146.410 simplex frequency. The NOARC will have tables for you to sell your excess radio gear at several Ham Fest this year. There will be at least two Fox Hunts and don't forget about field day where you can eat all you want talk even more send some CW or what ever mode your into, and just have a good time. And best of all no background checks.

I think the most important part of the Amateur Radio Hobby is this:

- Life long acquaintances
- Life long friendships and camaraderie even with folks you never met in person
- A chance to share your knowledge and expertise with others
- Most of all Amateur Radio is something we all have in common

I know that for a lot of Hams that have been out of the main stream for a while, some of the new modes and new people in the NOARC can be a overwhelming thing. I know I felt this way after dropping out for a couple of years but let me assure you its just fine to show up again.

The new things may seem overwhelming but people are people and it's always been my experience with Amateurs for sure, that we will do what we can to make you feel welcome, and share what we know and learn what you have to share.

That's as mushy as it gets so there you go. With that said I hope this article will get into the hands of all it was intended for. I have been around this club longer than it was a club and there are quite a few fellows that helped me get started in Ham Radio. I feel I owe you and have been trying to pay you back by getting others involved in the hobby. So don't be overwhelmed or intimidated by the new stuff. We are the new kids on the block but we are just people were Hams.

It would be nice to see some of you old timers coming around again.



Tom Nuyens (aka Iron Man) ,
N8GNA & Ed Summers
KC8LBZ

Work a distant contact
At last year's Field Day.

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

Name

Call

Address

City

State

zip

**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 readback 7

Phone patch Instructions:

*** followed by phone number**

t o disconnect

**** redial last 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 \$ 30.00 individual and \$ 40.00 family. Please send dues to NOARC Box 44, Ferrysburg, MI 49409. Please keep the club Treasurer (KC8HXO@yahoo.com) and the Club Secretary (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