

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

SPARK for March 2004

Don Smith VP

Here it is almost April storm season, so I would think that the March meeting is appropriate, seeing it's the Annual Skywarn Training and it will be at the Coopersville High School, 198 East St. Coopersville, MI 49409. See you there!

The Marshall Ham Fest was pretty good and I made some nice purchases and we sold 5 TE NE KE's

Tom Fisher K8000 purchased two 70 centimeter six element beam type antennas of commercial grade and donated them to the NOARC for our link system between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. We stopped at the 92nd Street hill in Grand Rapids on our way home from Marshall and installed the transmitting antenna on the tower there, with the help of Abe W8HVG, Tom K8000, Mark KC8DHQ, John KC8UNY, and myself. When we took down the transmitting antenna it pretty much self destructed that's how bad of shape it was in. Some time this week we will be going up on Water Tank Hill to install the other antenna on the receiving end and adjusting some interfering equipment to get our link up to snuff.

Don Meyer KB8ODB in cooperation with Tom Fisher K8000, Dan Anderson AB8CD and the Village of Spring Lake will be setting up a new Emergency Communications room and it will be tied in with the new North Ottawa County Emergency Communications project instigated by Tom KB8VEE and with the approval of the NOARC. This new project will insure the safety of the Tri Cities, by having a local group the organization can be on the scene instantly rather than waiting on emergency communicators from adjacent Cities, for more information on the NOCEC contact Don KB8ODB. I feel this is a project that needs the attention of all NOARC members, at one time we had a Civil Defense Emergency Services group second to none and I would like to see that again. This is the kind of glue that bonds a club together.

Andrew N8ARY has the ECHO link running smooth and legal and don't forget about the IRLP on the 443.775 machine John KC8MCG has worked hard on this project and its pretty reliable communications.

By the time you read this John and Sally Sundstrom should be back in town and all the other snow birds will be headed back soon. This is always a great time of year because it seems that things always get rolling with everyone back and the warm weather starting. I look forward to working on antennas with LOU and club projects with John.

I have talked to Greg KC8HXO and he is volunteered to get field day organized, yep its not too early to think about field day. As a matter of fact I usually start thinking about the next field day the day after the last one, so there you go.

I am glad to tell you that the NOARC has gone to the Dogs and I don't mean the Big Dogs but at the April meeting we will have the K9 crew of the SAR or is that the SAR dogs? Any how stay tuned for more info on that.

I think I covered everything for now. So until we meet again 73 and 88

AR SK de N8HCS

TREASURER's REPORT

Account Status as of January 22, 2004

Beginning Balance of all accounts was \$6134.65, of which checking and savings totaled \$5242.71, and the NOARC endowment fund balance of \$891.94

Income for the period: \$304.81 of which \$0.81 was interest on savings; \$290.00 was Club dues; and \$14.00 was 50/50 Drawing From November meeting.

Expenses for the period: \$1297.80 of which \$36.00 was Reimbursement to John Sundstrom, N8YQD, for November/December newsletter expenses, and another \$707.00 was reimbursed to John for the Repeater Controller; \$24.00 was for IRA 2003 Swap; \$325 to Seabury/Smith for 2004 NOARC Liability Insurance premium; \$15.00 to Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell for 2003 Lowell Swap; and \$190.80 to Radio Shack for the books for the latest Technician class by NOARC.

Ending balance of all accounts: \$5521.74 of which checking and savings total \$4249.72, and the NOARC endowment fund total balance is \$1272.02

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

General Fund: \$3974.72 Repeater Fund: \$0
 Digital Fund: \$275.00 Endowment Fund \$1272.02
 Total all funds \$5521.74

This period there were no expenses incurred for the Te-Ne-Ke project, and no revenues. The total revenue generated to date are \$5173.36. This IS reflected in the general account balance in the above ledger. Please continue to support this important project!!
 =====

73, Greg Schippers, KC8HXO



To the left are the area HAMs who went to the Orlando Hamfest. Recognize a few of them?



***** 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 www.qsl.net/noarc

- | | | | | | |
|---------|--------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| • FEB24 | N8ARY | Andrew | • MAR23 | KF8NS | Dean |
| • MAR02 | N8HCS | Eugene | • MAR30 | N8PFC | Brad |
| • MAR09 | KB8VEE | Tom | • APR06 | KB8HU | Charlie |
| • MAR16 | N8LBG | Woody | • APR13 | N8YQD | John |

Upcoming Events

February 26: Skywarn training at Coopersville High School. This is in lieu of the March Meeting.

Club Officers :

PRESIDENT:	Dean Whitney, KF8NS	842-0976
Vice-President:	Don Smith, N8HCS	846-1938
Treasurer:	John Sundstrom, N8YQD	847-4249
Secretary/SPARK editor:	Andrew Young, N8ARY	844-4484
Program Director:	Craig Christilaw, K8CRC	



Grand Haven Area

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

February 19, 2004

Don Smith
North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 44
Ferrysburg, MI 49409

Dear Mr. Smith,

Congratulations! I am pleased to let you know that the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation's Distribution Committee at their 01/28/04 meeting agreed to provide a grant in the amount of \$707 to provide for the Upgrade Repeater Controller. This grant was subsequently approved by our Board of Trustees on February 18.

Enclosed are two copies of a grant agreement that fully outlines your responsibilities as a grant recipient. Please sign both copies and return one signed copy to the foundation office. *Please notify the office in writing when the funds are needed, and a check will be promptly processed.*

Once again, congratulations. The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is pleased to support this project, which will allow NOARC to respond to community emergencies and serve the community at local events. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Carol Bedient, Program Administrator
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation

Cc: John Sundstrom, Treasurer

One South Harbor · Grand Haven, MI 49417 · 616.842.6378 · fax 616.842.9518 · www.ghacf.org

For good. For ever.™

Local ham club wins grant to upgrade radio repeater

(from Grand Haven Tribune)

The Tri-Cities area ham radio club was recently awarded a grant to upgrade its repeater equipment, used to provide communications in community emergencies.

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation gave the North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club (NOARC) \$707 to replace the club's repeater controller unit.

The NOARC repeater is located on Five Mile Hill in Grand Haven. It has the ability to receive even weak signals from local amateur radio operators, and amplify and retransmit them over a 30-mile radius — making it possible to send storm warnings, coordinate search and rescue efforts, and provide communications for a variety of public service events.

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation funded the construction of the repeater in 1982 with a \$5,000 grant.

In letters supporting the club's request, both Ottawa County Emergency Management Director Bill Smith and Ottawa County Central Dispatch Executive Director Richard Troshak praised the work of local amateur radio operators.

"To state it very simply, the amateur radio volunteers of Ottawa County are a very vital part of our emergency plan and without them a tremendous void would be felt," Smith wrote.

> ==>SOLAR UPDATE

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> Propagation prognosticator Tad "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me" Cook,
> K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports: A large sunspot emerged over the past
> week. On February 21, sunspot 564 began to appear around the east limb of
> the visible solar disk. By February 23, it was five times as large as
> Earth. The sunspot was rotating across the upper hemisphere of the sun, so
> it was never aimed squarely toward earth, but it was most directed toward
> us on February 25.

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> Average daily sunspot numbers were slightly higher this week than last.
> Average daily solar flux was lower by 0.2 point. Solar activity is rising,
> and solar flux should peak between February 28 to March 1 at around 130. A
> sunspot currently is forming on the far side of the sun, and it may cause
> a slight rise in solar flux around March 8.

>

> Geomagnetic conditions have been very quiet this week. Sunspot 563
> released two solar flares on February 26. Earth is expected to encounter a
> solar wind stream on February 29 or March 1. Planetary A index predictions
> for February 27 through March 2 are 12, 12, 15, 20 and 20.

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> Sunspot numbers for February 19 through 25 were 33, 34, 52, 58, 68, 85 and
> 107, with a mean of 62.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 96.4, 95.4, 98.2, 103.9,
> 104.3, 105.5 and 118.5, with a mean of 103.2. Estimated planetary A
> indices were 5, 4, 7, 8, 8, 11 and 8, with a mean of 7.3.

Repeater Report– by N8ARY

The '49 machine is still going strong. The new controller is working fine and now the Echolink UHF transmitter is fully operational. I built a 4-element UHF beam to make sure "Old Faithful" can hear any Echolinkers up on the hill.

One thing to keep in mind– If the courtesy tone is a "K," then the signal is either Echolink or the Grand Rapids receiver. You will need to leave a good pause for any stations on Echolink because of the delay. This is especially important during Tuesday Net operations.

Stuff you should know about the North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Repeater (reprinted from last month)

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | It is not in Canada | |
| 2. | For EMERGENCY dial | 911 |
| 3. | Time of day request code. | 400 |
| 4. | DTMF pad test prefix code. | 325 |
| 5. | Auto Patch access code. | * |
| 6. | Auto Patch disconnect code. | # |
| 7. | User Speed Dial Prefix Code. | 6 |
| 8. | Signal Report Code. | 750 |

When using the Signal Report Code (750) press the push to talk and enter 750 on your dtmf pad then release the push to talk. The repeater controller will reply with the words start test now. At this time press the push to talk again and talk for a few seconds (e.g. this is W8ABC testing) then release the push to talk and the controller will play back what you just recorded. This will enable you to see how you sound through the repeater.

To use the speed dial feature the prefix code is 6 and not a star like before, in other words if your speed dial number was *22 it is now 622. To dial a seven digit phone number you still use the star prefix.

Keep in mind this new controller is as new to the repeater committee as it is to you, but we will be learning and working the bugs out of it as we go along. So be patient and if you have any request or suggestions contact Andrew N8ARY committee chairman at n8ary@n8ary.com.

If you are a dues paying member and would like a SPEED DIAL number, contact N8HCS or the committee chairman and we will accommodate you on this matter.

Newsletter News

I am trying to change the way we distribute announcements, newsletters, and other information. If you have internet access, sign up for the W8CSO group on Yahoo. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/W8CSO/>

For now, I will try to keep up the Newsletter in the traditional manner for the members who haven't joined.

Feb 2004 Meeting Minutes

- 7:30- Call to Order by Don Smith, N8HCS
- Tyler V. from Ottawa Wireless was introduced.
- The approval of a \$707 grant was announced for the new controller (see the letter on pg. 4).
- Skywarn Training will be Thursday, Mar 25 at Coopersville High School.
- W6ASP from California was also a guest.
- VESA donated \$100 to the club.
- Don Meyer discussed forming a subsidiary branch of ARES to help with the North end of Ottawa County.
- Tom Fischer discussed the probability of getting Amateur Radio equipment set up in the Spring Lake Police Dept.– They are on board.
- Tom Vandermel won the 50/50 drawing.
- Tyler VanHeuling presented a nice discussion about the new citywide wireless internet system



Class of 2004

Our class this year was not as big as it sometimes is but these three guys gave it their all, and Graduated early. We all went to Holland Saturday morning February 21 to one of the biggest VE sessions ever held with the Holland Group and these three fellows passed their Technician Exams with flying colors. Additionally, John Fischer (KC8UNY) from Grand Haven passed his code test. (From left to right) Bob Jersstadt from Spring Lake, George Dood from Grand Haven, and Michael Grzyb also from Grand Haven.

Dues Renewal Form. Dues are : Single \$35, Family \$45 . Please mail to Box 44 Ferrysburg, MI 49409

Name- _____ Call _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

W8CSO (NOARC) Repeater information:

*****If the NOARC repeater goes down , use 145.490 simplex*****

Function	Value	Function	Value
Frequency	145.490 (-)	Load "Normal" File	1751
PL Tone	94.8 or 91.5 (GRR)	Load "Net Mode" File	1752
Carrier Access (no PL req'd)	TBA– Won't work at this time.	Echolink Connect	#Cxxxxx where "x..." is the node nmbr.
Signal Test	750	Echolink Disconnect	#73
Autopatch Start	* then number	Echolink Random Connect	#01
Autopatch End	#	Echolink Check Status	#08
Emergency	911 or *911	Echolink Connect Last node	#09

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 (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
P.O. Box 44
Ferrysburg, MI 49409
Postmaster: Return Requested