

SPARK for Nov 2002



Picture taken by Craig Cristilaw ,K8CRC at the November 2 breakfast at the Pine Street Café in Ferrysburg where 14 ham were present. Attendance is up at NOARC Functions recently. 31 attended the October meeting.

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NEWS FLASH: THIS MONTH'S MEETING ON NOVEMBER 21 WILL BE A HAM SWAP. BRING IN YOUR ITEMS TO SELL! CHRISTMAS SHOP EARLY!

Treasurer's Report Account Status as of October 21, 2002:

Beginning Balance of all accounts was \$5,738.61, of which checking and savings totaled \$4,883.86, and the NOARC endowment fund balance of \$854.75.

Income for the period: \$0.85 of which \$.85 was interest on savings;

Expenses for the period: \$0.00

Ending balance of all accounts: \$5739.56 of which checking and savings total \$4884.71, and the NOARC endowment fund total balance is \$854.75.

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

General Fund: \$ 4609.71

Repeater Fund: \$0

Digital Fund: \$275.00

Endowment Fund \$854.75

Total all funds \$ 5,739.56

This period there were no expenses incurred for the Te-Ne-Ke project, and no revenues. The total revenue generated to date are \$4402.36. 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.

Nov 19 Brad N8PFC

Dec 17 Tom KB8VEE

Nov 26 John N8YQD

Dec 24 Woody N8LBG

Dec 3 Mike WA8CTK

Dec 31 Bev KC8JWA

Dec 10 Don N8HCS

Jan 7 Dean KF8NS

NOTE: This information is also found on the NOARC Web site

Upcoming NOARC Events

Thursday November 21st 7 PM . SWAP MEET! Our regular meeting at the White Pine Middle School will consist of a short business meeting and then a SWAP MEET! Do all your Christmas shopping here! Everyone please bring in stuff to sell!

Thursday December 19 7PM . NOARC Annual Family Christmas Buffet Holiday Party at the White Pine Middle School. Please bring a dish to pass and wish all your friends a happy holiday season.

Minutes of October NOARC Meeting By John Sundstrom, N8YQD

1. Vice President Dean Whitney conducted the meeting in Don Smith's Absence. 32 Attendees at the meeting!
2. Officer Slate for next Year : Don Smith - President; Dean Whitney- Vice President; Greg Schippers-Secretary; John Sundstrom-Secretary; Ed Summers-Activities Chairman.
3. A committee was setup (Whitney, Schippers, Sundstrom & Vandermehl) to design a better Uninterruptable Power Supply for the repeater. Both Solar and better charge controller ideas were discussed.
4. The program was a show and tell where members brought in interesting radio items and told about them.
5. The school library was opened up so members could see the operating PSK-31 station setup to interest school children in Amateur Radio.

From Ben k8ar:

Hi John here is the url for radio modifications www.mods.dk/index.htm

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: | Dan Whisman ,N8KCW | 847-8377 |

President's Perspective by Don Smith, N8HCS

You know I just hate to go "Henry" (for Henry Riekels, W8GVK) on you BUT the more Swap meets I go to and the more I talk to present day Radio Hams or should I say appliance operators? Well sometimes I just walk away feeling dumber than when I started.

This article isn't about anybody so don't take it personal, and besides I think were all victims of multi billion Dollar Company's anyhow. Don't all those ads in the magazines just make you want buy? Sure they do, that's what it is all about. Take a black box put a bunch of knobs on it (the more the better) and promote it with a big name like Super Communicator 5000 and you can sell a ton of them.

Maybe this is another problem: we don't go any where anymore. By this I mean we just sit around looking on the Internet and watching TV and just being lazy! And don't deny it I don't! I know that we are all victims of some kind of tube watching, and lazy. What ever happened to the days of going over to a fellow ham friend or for that mater anybody's house and just spend some time doing something with some one else?

When I was a kid I remember our house was the gathering place on the weekends, the guys would get together and work on cars or some neat project and the women all had there things to do and seems there was always something simmering on the stove. What all this is leading up to is this: We don't spend enough time building and learning anymore. it's just too easy to lay down all are hard earned cash rather than fend for our intelligence. Now this really sounds Henry but I remember the old days when N8EJP, Bill and I would get so involved in a project that before you know it the sun was coming up and we didn't even know it was time to go to bed yet. Now at that time I didn't have the money to go out and buy all those black boxes's. Maybe that's why but still today as I look around at what is coming on the market, man its them against us and there winning.

Here is one, The Rig Blaster, WOW!!! I just have to have one of those, right? WRONG! I built one in about an hour with about ten bucks worth of parts if I would have had to buy them but I just looked around and found that I already owned about a dozen rig blasters just unassembled. Saved about \$130.00 there and I have a N8HCS blaster. I think I will call it the Super Rig Master 5000! don't you just love it? I can put some freeware on a disk and sell you this package but first let me get with my marketing firm then I will let you know. Why not get with a buddy and build a couple Rig Master's or Blaster's then you can both get on psk or slow scan TV and look at each other?

Here is a good one:

MFJ Ground Coupled Portable Antenna base. IT'S A CHUNK OF STEEL! Its worth about 10 cents a pound and believe it or not they are selling. For only \$99.95 you can own your own personal 2'x 2' chunk of steel and its good 160 thru 2 meters. I think before anyone should even look at this stuff they should own a MFJ Intelligence Enhancer, maybe that might help sort out the crap.

Antenna Tuner'shere is another one for crying out loud. If you need one quit walking by all the free junk at the swaps. Man, I have seen guys giving away tapped inductor's ,old meters and variable capacitor's. All you need is a box to put it in and save a couple hundred bucks. If you don't know how to build one call a buddy that has a hand book and figure it out together. Will, W9LNU, never bought a tuner and he had some of the worst looking antennas I have ever seen, but he had a roller inductor and a variable capacitor he carried around for years. He would just nail them to a box usually outside by the antenna and tune up his whatever and he was on the air.

We have to get together and do stuff and if you don't want to learn anything well maybe you can just invite someone over and tell lies or talk about the old days.

Just beware of some of the stuff people are trying to sell you. I know you probably can't fix some of these new rigs or build one for that matter but to just pass the entry level license you ****Should**** have to know how to build a wire antenna.

Here is a good example: I go to the bait store and buy the super wobble rattle jig guaranteed to catch fish right? Well maybe but while I am sitting around doing nothing I pour some lead and make my own jig and hand paint it, put a couple of eyes and a ten cent rattle on it, I have confidence in it cause I built it and if it don't work I know how to fix it and when I catch a fish on it, why that will be the biggest, best tasting fish I will ever eat.

Thanks for listening

Don N8HCS



Photo above is of a working PSK-31 station that was setup in the white pines Middle School library By Don, N8HCS, Lou N8KYO and John N8YQD. We also setup an antenna in the library with a sign saying “follow the feed line to the radio”. The receiver is an old Kenwood 520 set on 14070 which is the PSK-31 frequency. Signs were made explaining what is happening and also offering a technician course in February. The library (and all of the school libraries in the tri cities area) has QST on the magazine rack thanks to NOARC.

Dues Renewal Form Single \$30 Family \$40 Please mail to Box 44 Ferrysburg, MI before January 1,2003

| | | | |
|---------|------|-------|-----|
| 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

* 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

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Box 44

Ferrysburg, MI 49409

Postmaster: Return Requested