

SPARK

the monthly newsletter of the

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

August 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

July meeting minutes....	pg 2
Treasurer's report.....	pg 2
Field Day report.....	pg 3
Events calendar.....	pg 5
March 1990 newsletter..	pg 6
Swap 'n Shop.....	pg 10

Fox hunt this month, QRP outing in September

Due to a bit of confusion, the NOARC fox hunt was not held in July as it usually is. Therefore, our traditional late-summer activities have been pushed back a month. The QRP event in William Ferry Park will be held in lieu of our September meeting, and the fox hunt will take the place of the August 18 meeting.

This time, we're doing something a little different with the fox hunt – we're holding it in Spring Lake, rather than Grand Haven. Hunters will meet in the C3Exchange parking lot across the street from the library and scour the village's back streets for the elusive fox.

The hint was dropped at coffee last Tuesday that we wouldn't have had this problem if we had an activities director...

NOARC board of directors

President

Paul Zellar, W8IQE – paulzellar@sbcglobal.net – (616) 844-0847

Vice President

Craig Christilaw, K8CRC – k8crc@arrl.net – (616) 846-0464

Secretaries

Roger & Phyllis Simmons, N8RXC & KB8NLN – rogersimmons6@gmail.com – (616) 846-3496

Treasurer

John Sundstrom, N8YQD – sundstrj@gvsu.edu – (616) 847-4249

SPARK Editor

Joe Veldhuis, N8FQ – jvn8fq@gmail.com – (616) 834-4989

Activities Director

** VACANT **

NOARC 2 meter repeater

W8CSO/R – 145.490 output, 144.890 input

Main RX: PL 94.8 – Grand Rapids RX: PL 91.5 – EchoLink: N8FQ-R #469574

Minutes of the July 2011 meeting

We arrived at the Spring Lake Library at 6:05 pm. Phyllis set about getting her brownies , cookies, apples, pretzels, ginger snaps, coffee and tea in the conference room. At 6:35 pm President Paul Zellar called the meeting to order. The members called out their names and call signs. He advised that the August meeting will be a Fox Hunt. The club will meet in the parking lot of the C3Exchange Church, across the street from the Spring Lake Library. Phyllis & Roger were volunteered to be the fox.

Treasurer John Sundstrom said the Treasurers report will be on the Internet. He reported a balance of 2067.00.

On Saturday September 10th, the GRAHAM fest will be held at the Home School Building located at 5625 Burlingame, Wyoming.

Don Meyer told the group that Jim Miller has retired from the OCEC Co-coordinator post. Jason McKay will be replacing him. Joe Veldhuis will be Sky Warn Co-coordinator for Ottawa County. (Just in time for the bad weather that arrived after the meeting)

During a discussion about including young people into amateur radio, John Fischer mentioned that he was in Russ' Restaurant after the Tuesday night net. Some kids came to his table and asked: "Are you guys under cover police?"

The September meeting will take place at Ferry Park. Time and activity is to be announced.

At 7:20 pm Paul Zellar adjourned the meeting to the goodie table. Various discussions ensued until around 8:00pm when the room was emptied.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis and Roger Simmons

August 2011 Treasurer's Report

Balance as of May 17 th (agrees with bank).....	\$2,340.75
checks:.....Phyllis Simmons Field Day food	267.19
US Post office box rent	76.00
Deposits:	
Dues, Al Freeman.....	70.00
Balance as of July 28, 2011 (agrees with Chase Bank).....	2,067.76

Grand Haven Community Foundation Balance (3/31/2011)..... \$5,519.14
Many thanks to the estate of Woody Aldrich for the donation of his radio gear.

Roger and Phyllis' Field Day report

At 5:30 am Phyllis and Roger woke up. The power to the house was off. It was Field Day. We dressed in the dark and finished loading the Suburban with food and radio goods. At 7:30 am the power came back on at the house. We departed for Ferry Park. Phyllis in the Suburban stopped at McDonalds for a load of Egg McMuffins and sausage biscuits. Roger took the Volvo to the Park.

Some "core members" were already at the park making preparations for their stations. At 8:00 am breakfast was served in the park shelter. After breakfast, Lou Meisch was busy putting sky high antennas up. This included Joe Veldhuis' six meter and UHF rig.

Lou was pretty much responsible for putting up all the antennas in the park for the event. This included a two meter dipole, an eighty meter horizontal loop and a fifteen meter vertical near the 104 bridge. Joe started contacting stations in rapid succession. Before lunch the stations were set up and operating.

Pizza was the order of the day for lunch. As 2:00 pm rolled around, the GOTA (Get on the air) station operated with John Fischer. Jim Wolters with Gordon Stockwell started CW contacts on forty meters. Mark Stern and Roger sported a two room tent with four six volt batteries wired in series and parallel for eighty and twenty meter CW contacts. The contest was on.

Paul Zellar (bless his heart) furnished power for the whole operation. He brought out enough solar panels to charge batteries, which powered inverters for all the stations. All this was supplemented by his electric car, (which he also made).

Supper was a successful potluck. The food was mainly brought in by the women. There was fried chicken, four bean salad, pulled barbeque pork, potato salad, baked beans, potato chips vegetables, fruit salad, bananas, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and water and soft driinks, courtesy of Craig Christilaw. For dessert: brownies, watermelon, lemon cake and baked turnovers. There could have been more, but that is all I can remember eating.

Mark Stern brought out his beautiful German Shepherd. The friendly dog stood guard for the encampment.

It got dark. The temperature remained a cool 58 degrees, or so but pleasant without noticeable wind. As the evening wore on, some walkers in the park stopped to chat about "what those people were doing over there".

Most were impressed with how high the antennas were. They reflected light in the dim illumination of the park. They were quite dramatic.

Sometime after 11:30 pm, most of the daylight crowd had departed. The sounds of "CQ. CQ.CQ" and morse code resonated thru the nearly deserted park. The hard core operators continued thru the night.

Paul Zellar made the rounds of all the stations making sure each had proper voltages to last thru the night into morning. Phyllis and Roger turned in to the mattress at the back of the Suburban. Lou Meisch turned in to the bed of his RV for a break. The Old Boys Brew House, across the river from the park, which had been plying music across the river from the park, all evening, ceased playing. Only the sounds of the vehicular traffic on M-104 and US-31 continued, breaking the silence of the night.

At around 2:30 am, Roger debarked the Suburban for a pit stop. A lantern lit the inside of the two room tent. Normal power was not available. At 4:19 am, Roger made a tour of the compound. The picnic pavilion was bathed in its dim overhead light. An easy up shelter had been raised beneath the roof. Most of the food had been put in the truck and car, safe from the night critters.

West of the pavilion some distance, Paul Zellar's solar panels reflected starlight. Silent power plants waiting for the morning sun. The Ottawa County Sheriff Department emergency trailer, now home of the GOTA Station, was locked for the night. East of the restroom, Phyllis was asleep in the Suburban. Fifty foot east of that location, Lou Meisch was asleep in his Roadtrek RV.

A half moon shown, peach colored, thru the haze of the night. Traffic on the highways slowed to a quieter pace. The park was still. Roger plucked a bottle of water from the cooler at the pavilion and returned to the tent. There was radio traffic, but not as hectic as in the afternoon and evening.

As the sun rose on Sunday morning, breakfast was served up by Phyllis. Some of the operators, who had departed, returned. When breakfast was consumed, the hams went back to work.

As the 2:00 pm deadline approached, we began taking the stations apart. For some reason, it always seems harder and more effort to take camp down than to put it up. All in all, as Lou Meisch says: "A good time was had by all".

Apologies for any erroneous items or omissions in this report. Its just the way I remember it.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis and Roger Simmons

August 2011 calendar of events and net control schedule

Every Tuesday:

NOARC net/coffee at Russ' in Grand Haven
8:00 PM

Every Wednesday:

Breakfast at Idle Hour Restaurant in Spring Lake
7:00 AM

Every Saturday:

Breakfast at Vic's Restaurant in Spring Lake
7:00 AM

August 6:

UP Hamfest, Escanaba
<http://www.dcars.org>

August 8:

Holland ARC satellite demo
Kollen Park, Holland
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

August 14:

Lapeer County Swap and Shop, Lapeer
<http://w8lap.com>

August 18:

NOARC Fox Hunt – C3Exchange, Spring Lake
6:30 PM

August 27:

SARA Swap & Trunk Sale, Owosso
<http://www.w8qqq.org>

NOARC net control schedule:

August 2: **John, KC8UNY**

August 9: **Roger, N8RXC**

August 16: **Joe, N8FQ**

August 23: **John, N8YQD**

August 30: **Paul, W8IQE**

SPARK for March 1990

NOARCcgcsusaSPARK

MARCH, 1990

GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN

COAST GUARD CITY, USA

NORTH OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

president-- will rudd w9lnu	vice president--bob van rhee n8las
treasurer-- bob japenga n8iku	secretary--ted swanson n8hkn
activities manager--hank riekels wa8gvk ?	
noarc editor-- ben docter k8ar	

CLUB REPEATER AT 145.49

NET MEETS EACH TUESDAY NIGHT AT 8 P.M.

CLUB MEETS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER 4TH THURSDAY EACH MONTH AT 7.30 P.M.

Reports have it that we have another good class going this year thanks especially to the efforts of W9LNU and N8IKI. About 9 students are showing up fairly regularly. We should comment at this time about two students in particular who are near and dear to the heart of KA8USK. They are Karen and Stephanie Stano who at this writing have been talked about as being called "CW whizzes". Congratulations to both of you and the other students for your efforts in securing your own license.

N8FL Dick Tanis, one of our former presidents, now living in Indiana, has sent word that Joe Magnusson has a new address in Texas. He is another ex-president. Will, are you planning to leave too?

Joe Magnusson N5PLY ex WB8YDT
1536 Yaggi
Flower Mound, Texas 75028 tel. 214-539-0235

He works for GTE near Dallas. If anyone would like to contact him via packet, there is a BBS: N5LDD that you can go through.

Coast Guard Special Event Certificate plans are well under way. The design is being worked on and plans are being made to fund the cost. This will probably come out of the club treasury if no sponsor can be found so maybe we should start thinking about how to replenish these expenses. Maybe an extra donation at every club meeting earmarked for this event or else a table at a few hamfests with a portion of the proceeds donated to this cause. If you have any good ideas please present them at the next club meeting.

The announcements will go out to the ham magazines by the end of this month. We are working with the Corps of Engineers on a site for the Special Event Station. George KE8DL and Bob N8LAS will be taking vacation during this week so the station will be manned for the entire week. More details will follow.

FIELD DAY

Here comes our annual event again. We need everything. Antennas, rigs, towers, volunteers, food, volunteers, tents, RV's, volunteers. Start thinking about how you can help and participate this year in this fun event. Let's talk about it at the next club meeting.

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

APRIL 3, N8KY0
APRIL 24, WA8GVK
MAY 15, N8HUB
JUNE 5, N8ICR

APRIL 10, N8GNF
MAY 1, W9LNU
MAY 22, N8LAS

APRIL 17, N8LBG
MAY 8, KB8HU
MAY 29, N8KYG

N8IKU IS AT PRESENT STILL ENJOYING HIS VACATION IN HAWAII AND FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT LISTEN TO THE REPEATER WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE A SCHEDULE FOR THE TIMES HE ANTICIPATES BEING ON THE AIR. HE DOES NOT ANTICIPATE BEING ABLE TO SEND THE SAME QUALITY OF QSL CARDS THAT GEORGE DOES BUT THEN YOU NEVER KNOW. FROM 3PM TO 7PM LOCAL TIME BEGINNING ON MARCH 22 AND LATER HE WILL (MIGHT) BE ON 28940 MHZ AND FROM 7-5 ON 21310 MHZ. FOR NOVICES LOOKING FOR THEIR FIRST HAWAII CONTACT HE WILL BE LOOKING FOR YOU ON 28450 MHZ. HE EXPECTS TO BE COMING BACK ON MARCH 30.

HAMFEST TIME AGAIN:

APRIL 1, GROSSE POINTE WOODS Talk in on 146.14/74
APRIL 27,28,29 DAYTON "The biggie"

AUTODIAL NUMBERS

13 KC8P	14 N8ACK	15 N8LAS	16 N8EJP	17 N8LAV	18 KE8LZ	19 WD9GHS
20 NS8S	21 KB8BLX	22 N8HCS	23 WA8GVK	24 W8LLA	25 W8CSO	26 WA8QIS
27 N8HKN	28 N8IKU	29 W8ESZ	32 WD8BNJ	33 W9LNU	34 N8KYG	37 N8IJN
40 WB9ZPL		42 KB8GNM	43 W9BWC	44 KE8DL	46 N8FOX	47 N8IKI
48 N8GNA	51 WB8HDC	53 NR9B	55 N8LBG	59 N8III	I3 KB8AAF	74 KR8N
77 KA8USK		78 K8AR	79 KB8HU	82 N8GNF	90 NQ8M	96 KA8ZLG
99 WA8QIE						

A TUIT

hard to come by too

from The Hamcall, Kentucky Colonels ARC, Bowling Green, KY and A.R.N.S.

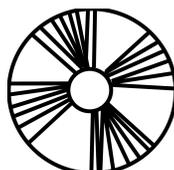
We have enough room in this newsletter for 1 TUIT! Please cut it out and save it, guard it, don't lose it, don't lend it!

These TUITs have been hard to come by, especially the round ones. But by special arrangement yours is printed below. We rejoice with you because the demand has been great and now that EACH MEMBER has a round TUIT available to him, expect many changes.

Many problems will be solved and meeting attendance should at least double now that each member has his own TUIT.

For you see, so many have said: "I will get started in club functions just as soon as I get a round TUIT." Others have said: "I know I should come to meetings. I never seem to get a round TUIT," "I know I should be more involved in the life of the club, but I never seem to get a round TUIT," or "I've really been meaning to write an article for the Newsletter and get more active in the club, but there has been so much to do and I've been so busy that I haven't gotten a round TUIT."

NOW THAT IS PAST! EVERYONE HAS HIS OWN ROUND TUIT! AND I KNOW THAT GREAT THINGS ARE IN STORE!



March 11, 1990

Below is what happened at the repeater council meeting.

Several of us went to the MARC meeting held on March 3, 1990. Below is the results of that meeting.

The interference problem is being caused by the users of the KA8USK/R. Dave, N8BIT, complaint is that the major interference is during the morning net, well within our coverage area. The terrain between us and the N8BIT/R seems to propagate 2 meters. Abe, WA8HVG, has the same similar problem with his 147.165 repeater. Any band enhancement seems to be amplified along the I-96 corridor. The N8BIT/R was coordinated prior to the KA8USK/R, giving the N8BIT/R priority. We, as good amateur operators, should respect the interference of our users. We have four options, 1.) to voluntarily all use a PL tone of 94.8, 2.) install PL on the KA8USK/R, 3.) reduce or coverage area to 25 miles, 4.) change our current frequency. Lets look at each of the above four alternatives, not in order. Number 4 – We have a good, quiet pair of frequencies, if we change, we could get more interference than we do now, number 3 – reducing the coverage area will not eliminate the user interference with N8BIT/R, number 2 – if we are forced to use PL then our repeater will look to outsiders as a “closed” repeater, also those who do not have PL in their radios will be forced to purchase and add-on unit for about \$30-\$50, number 1 – I think that this is the best alternative. Now before all of you get mad because WE have to do something, remember that we were coordinated last, giving N8BIT/R priority. Dave, N8BIT will install, at his expense, an ANTI-PL unit that will reject any signal that has a 94.8 PL tone on it. It works like this, If a signal is received by his repeater that has a 94.8 PL tone it will not open his COR, thus eliminating the interference problem. If we use PL on a voluntary basis, that is, if we all use PL tone 94.8 on our transmit frequency our interference problems with the N8BIT/R will be solved because the N8BIT/R will reject our transmit frequency. We will not have to install PL on our repeater, reduce coverage area, or change frequencies. Come to the next club meeting and ask questions, as I can not answer all questions in this letter. Let's keep an open mind and remember that to eliminate interference is a GOOD AMATEUR PRACTICE.

Bruce KE8LZ

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARL N8KYG FOR PASSING HIS ADVANCED CODE AND THEORY LAST SATURDAY IN MARSHALL

THE ART OF SOLDERING

By David Heller, K3TX, in Penn Wireless Association X-MITTER and A.R.N.S.

Soldering is the primary assembly mechanism of electronics. It is a skill that is most important for all amateurs. Some notes on this basic operation are due. Soldering is covered nicely in many handbooks, the Heath manuals, and in X-MITTER. Like any other skill, soldering requires proper tools, proper materials, proper instructions and PRACTICE. The beginner is well advised to practice on a junk chassis of some sort, preferably with a skilled instructor.

What is solder? Electrical solder is an alloy of tin (Sn) and lead (Pb). It is found in varying proportions, but for electrical work the eutectic 63-37 (63% Sn, 37% Pb) is much to be preferred. 60-40 is quite satisfactory. Poorer grades are best avoided. (Note that the first percentage is tin, the second lead.)

What is soldering? Basically, the soldering operation is to heat two components above the melting point of the solder, permitting the solder to wet the several surfaces and fill the gap between them. The solder provides a mechanical connection having good electrical conductivity.

What is flux? Flux is a material which chemically cleans the surfaces to be soldered to permit the solder to allow to the surfaces being soldered. ALL FLUX IS CORROSIVE. The noncorroding fluxes suitable for electrical/electronic work are generally rosin-based materials which are inert at room temperature, though corrosive at elevated (soldering) temperatures.

So-called "non-corroding" paste fluxes and acid fluxes are absolutely not acceptable for use on or near electrical work. The common greasy paste flux (No-corrode), and similar products are aqueous solutions of zinc chloride and ammonium chloride emulsified in grease. They are hygroscopic, meaning they absorb moisture from the air, forming hydrochloric acid (HCl), and they are electrically conductive. Use of "paste" fluxes is certain to create shorts where there should be insulation, open circuits where connections should exist, and assorted other damage. Take the warning in every Heath manual at face value: Use paste fluxes on a Heathkit and all warranties are void. Or the standard practice in most high-tech labs: Possession of paste fluxes in the work-place is grounds for instant firing.

Cold solder joints: A major cause of soldering problems is cold solder joints. There is a temperature range between fully solid (solidus) and fully liquid (liquidus) in which the solder alloy is "plastic". If the solder is disturbed -vibrated or moved- while in this plastic state it will not form a solid joint, but rather will become a granular mass with very poor mechanical and electrical properties. And, worst of all, the colder solder joint can be hard to find. The fix is simple: re-heat above the melting point and let solidify undisturbed. The eutectic 63-37 solder has no plastic range and thus is nearly immune from cold solder problems - this alone is enough to make its slightly higher cost well worth it.

The general radio worker is best advised to stay with a good grade of solder made for radio use with a flux core. The Kester name is excellent, though there are other acceptable brands. 1/32 inch cored solder is good for most fine work, and 1/16 inch is good for heavier electrical work. The soldering iron must be sized for the job at hand. Much printed

Editor's note: my copy of the March 1990 newsletter ended here. Thanks to Paul, W8IQE for digging it up!

Swap 'n shop

For Sale: Zenith Trans-Atlantic all-band radios – John Sundstrom, N8YQD

For Sale: Textbooks on basic electronic theory, multimeters and oscilloscopes – Paul Zellar, W8IQE

The **Te-Ne-Ke** is still in production - \$50 shipped anywhere

Items from the estate of Woody Aldrich, N8LBG – contact Paul, W8IQE

RadioShack HTX-252 2 meter mobile w/ manual - \$75

Radio Shack PRO-2023 scanner - \$75

MFJ keyboard keyer - \$30

MFJ-4035 12 volt 35 amp power supply - \$100

Sangean 4-band portable radio, needs help - \$10

Hammarlund loudspeaker - \$25

NiMH/NiCd battery charger - \$5



Donald Smith Painting
Don Smith
Owner
*Painting, Staining, Custom color matching, Drywall
repair, Texturing, Carpet cleaning*
We deal in Pigments of your Infatuation

**12960 Taft Rd.
Nunica, MI 49448**

616-502-3622

*Good as the
Best - Better
than the Rest*

NOARC membership form

Dues:

Individual: \$25 yearly or \$70 for 3 years

Family: \$35 yearly or \$75 for 3 years

Name: _____ **Callsign:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Make checks payable to **NOARC**

Mail form to:

NOARC

PO Box 976

Grand Haven, MI 49417