

SPARK

the monthly newsletter of the

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

February 2013



If you think the weather's bad now, just think about what it'll be like in a few months! In the meantime, read on for minutes from the January club meeting...

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NOARC board of directors

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SPARK Editor

Joe Veldhuis, N8FQ – editor@w8cso.org – (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 January 2013 meeting

With most of the club in Florida, and a brewing snowstorm discouraging travel for the rest, the January meeting was sparsely-attended. Joe N8FQ, Craig K8CRC, Skip K8RRA, Gordon KA8UQT, Roger WB0DGF, Doug K8EXB, Don KB8ODB and John KC8UNY braved the elements and brought the meeting to order at 6:47 PM.

After introductions, a discussion of the volunteer emergency service situation began. It was mentioned that there will be no Skywarn training in Ottawa county this year. The Kent county session in Grandville is being promoted to Ottawa residents, however the club is recommending the Muskegon county session, to be held on Saturday, March 16 at 2 PM at Muskegon Community College, room 1100.

Due to paperwork issues, and the transition to a new Region 6 DEC, Don KB8ODB's expected appointment as ARES EC for Ottawa county has been delayed, and at this time there is no active ARES program in the county. Work is being done to rectify this. In the meantime, events will continue to be coordinated with the club.

Don KB8ODB is looking for volunteers for an amateur radio demonstration for a scouting group at Edgewood School, on March 14 from 6 PM to 8 PM.

The treasurer's report was read by John KC8UNY. This was followed by a discussion of useful ways in which the club's funds could be utilized, and plans for handling club assets in the event of disbandment. These matters will be discussed with John N8YQD upon his return from Florida.

It was reported that the Te-Ne-Ke is currently being sold on eBay for \$55 with free shipping. Order volumes are high, however production of the new design is a slow and labor-intensive process.

There was discussion of a new e-mail reflector on the w8cso.org server. It was decided that an announcement list would be established, separate from the Yahoo group currently in use. It will be necessary to collect and verify members' e-mail addresses for enrollment in this new list.

Field Day was mentioned. Several ideas for venues and stations were floated. The need for overnight operators was again discussed, as well as the frequent issues with weather forcing us to shut down during these hours, regardless of the availability of operators.

It was mentioned that there will be a 5K race in Grand Haven on February 8, however the club's assistance will not be needed, as runners will be keeping to the boardwalk and sidewalks.

The upcoming Marshall hamfest was mentioned. It is not certain if the club will be purchasing tables for the event this year, due to overcrowding issues encountered in previous years.

The club's plans for weather spotting operations for the coming year were discussed. Due to concerns about the Ottawa County Skywarn program, it was decided that the club will operate its own spotting nets, and will not link with the Holland 147.06 repeater. Joe N8FQ will work as coordinator for this program. The idea of partnership with the Muskegon County program was discussed, including the possibility of linking with the 146.82 repeater. This would require additional discussions with MCECS personnel.

Doug K8EXB then began a presentation on radio astronomy. However, due to confusion about when the program began, the presentation was cut short. The meeting was officially adjourned shortly before 8 PM.

February treasurer's report

Ending balance as of 12/28/ 2012	2,106.58
deposit	
Dues, Groneler.....	70.00
New balance.....	2,176. 58
 Grand Haven Community Foundation balance	 5,556.07

I am writing this from Florida. Te Ne Ke's continue to sell. I have shipped 3 so far this month. The weather here has been quite warm with several days in the low 80's. Ben K8AR, Lou N8KYO and Mark K8MAZ are heard checking into the 9 AM bathrobe net on 14.236. Next month brings the Orlando hamfest on Feb 8 & 9.

February 2013 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

February 16:

Mid-Winter Interclub Swapfest, Brookfield, WI
<http://www.w9rh.org>

February 17:

Livonia ARC Swap & Shop
<http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop>

February 23:

Cabin Fever Hamfest, LaPorte, IN
<http://lpcarc.org>

NOARC net control schedule:

February 5: **Joe, N8FQ**

February 12: **Bev, KC8JWA**

February 19:

February 26: **John, KC8UNY**

March 5: **Joe, N8FQ**

March 12: **Bev, KC8JWA**

March 19:

March 26: **John, N8YQD**

It's always hard to fill the net control schedule during the winter, so e-mail me at editor@w8cso.org if you can take a night!

Swap 'n shop

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

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

Wanted: Good, working tubes – Jerome Novotny, K8CCJ – 231-206-1388



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