

SPARK

the monthly newsletter of the

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

January 2011

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RECORD BREAKING TURNOUT!

According to the sign-in sheet, we had 19 volunteers brave the bitter cold and help out with the 2010 Jingle Bell Parade! As far as I know, that beats our previous record for this event – or pretty much *any* event barring the Coast Guard parade.

Amazingly, there wasn't a single medical incident or lost child to be dealt with all evening, and even the traffic was relatively well-behaved. All in all, an excellent event.

NOARC board of directors

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

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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

December 2010 meeting minutes

We arrived at the Spring Lake Library at roughly 5:30 pm. Phyllis got the librarian to open the door to the conference room where we were to meet.

Once inside, we set to decorating the place with colorful table cloths on long tables. A Christmas wreath, from home, was hung, complete with blinking lights. Shortly afterwards, John and Sally Sundstrom arrived with their offering towards the potluck. John is the Treasurer of the club and he obtained the door prize of the evening, a Yaesu FT 250 R/E two meter transceiver radio.

Members drifted in and set up their dinner service at their selected tables. Most of the twenty three diners were ready to eat by 6:30. The food was set out cafeteria style. There was, among other items, ham, chicken, corn casserole, salmon, three kinds of potatoes, beans, a large platter of various breads complete with dip, lasagne, apple pie, cherry cake, cookies, soft drinks and coffee.

We all lined up, loaded our plates and the room grew quiet as we chowed down. Doug Furtons young son, Simon was heard to say: "All those radio people are eating ham!"

After most had eaten, John Sundstrom held a drawing for the door prize. Mark Stern was the lucky winner.

President elect Paul Zellar appeared before the group with LED flashlights for each person. He generously donated the larger part of his inventory from his own pocket. Everyone won something.

As the food was consumed, small groups began picking up their utensils and cleaning off the tables.

I went for my jacket. It was a valuable, heavy weather item. Made for the ground crew of Northwest Airline, the logo was blazened across the back and was given to me by my son Dan. I searched the rack carefully, checking each hanger. Near the end of the rack, I located my jacket. Some prankster had covered it with his own cheap windbreaker. Guess I'll be more careful in the future.

Everyone was pretty well set to leave the building around 7:40. Like Lou Meisch says: "A good time was had by all".

Respectfully submitted: Phyllis and Roger Simmons

January 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 Cafe in Spring Lake
7:00 AM

Every Saturday:

Breakfast at Pine Street Cafe in Ferrysburg
7:00 AM

January 1:

ARRL Straight Key Night
All HF/VHF bands, 0000z-2400z

January 16:

Hazel Park ARC hamfest, Hazel Park, MI
<http://www.hparc.org>

January 23:

Mid-Winter hamfest, St. Charles, IL
<http://www.w9ccu.org>

January 27:

OCEC repeater net, 7:30 PM
145.490 and 147.060 repeaters are linked for this net

NOARC net control schedule:

January 4: **Paul, W8IQE**

January 11: **John, KC8UNY**

January 18: **Joe, N8FQ**

January 25: **John, N8YQD**

E-mail me at jvn8fq@gmail.com if you want to get on the net control roster!

Photo gallery

A few scenes from our 2010 Christmas potluck dinner:



EchoLink explained

by Joe Veldhuis, N8FQ

For a few years now, the '49 repeater has had an Internet linking feature using the EchoLink software. Andrew, N8ARY set up the original system, and I took it over last year. This system allows hams to talk on the repeater using a computer or smartphone, or link to distant repeaters or conference servers. Several of our members have been using it to keep in touch with the area while spending the winter in warmer climates.

Our repeater's node is configured as a remote link – the EchoLink software is running on a computer at my house in Robinson township, which is wired up to a 2-meter radio via a soundcard interface – the same type of interface used for HF digital modes. There is no computer or Internet connection at the repeater site itself.



To be able to connect from your computer or phone, you will need to download the EchoLink software (for PC at www.echolink.org or for Android and iPhone from their respective app stores) and, if you have never used it before, register and validate. You will need to scan and send in a picture of your license to complete the validation process.

Once the software is installed and you have been validated, you can connect to the repeater using node **N8FQ-R**. Note that, while connected, you will not hear the repeater ID or courtesy tone.

If you are in an area covered by another EchoLink-enabled repeater (or a simplex link), you can connect to the '49 usually by just entering our node number (**469574**) on your DTMF pad. Depending on how the other station is configured, you may need to enter some prefix before the node number. You usually disconnect with the pound key.

You can also use the '49 node to connect to other nodes. All commands are prefixed with a pound sign (**#**), which instructs the repeater to pass your DTMF tones rather than muting them out. Use **##** or **#73** to disconnect after your QSO.

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 - \$40 shipped anywhere



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:

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Grand Haven, MI 49417