

SPARK

July 2012

the monthly newsletter of the

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

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FIELD DAY!

Read all about the latest iteration of this yearly tradition on page 2!

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Paul Zellar, W8IQE – president@w8cso.org – (616) 844-0847

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John Sundstrom, N8YQD – treasurer@w8cso.org – (616) 847-4249

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 June 2012 meeting and Field Day

Thursday evening June 21st, around six o'clock, we gathered at Central Park in Spring Lake. The purpose of the meet was to enjoy a "hot dog dinner and plan for the up coming Field Day. Phyllis and I got there early to start a charcoal fire in the barbecue pit. She served up hot dogs, brats, potato salad, brownies, chips, pop, coffee, tea, water and water melon.

After dinner, the group headed to the center of the park and planned out the location of the stations and solar panels we would use to power the radios. The same computer logging system was to be used as last year's Field Day.

When it started to get dark, the group of fourteen members dissolved into the night.

FIELD DAY

Six am came early on Saturday the 23rd. Phyllis and I finished loading the Suburban with the two room tent, rugs, radio equipment, antennas, and food. We hit the park around six thirty. Shortly after our arrival, Lou Meisch showed up with his Roadtrek. Mark Stern appeared with the clubs unofficial mascot, a large beautiful German Shepherd named "Leib". At 7:45 am Phyllis picked up McDonalds breakfast biscuits, oatmeal and fruit with coffee, tea , hot chocolate and rolls ..The cook was hindered by having to move her operation to a second pavilion. There was no electricity at the first one. One by one amateur radio operators showed up until breakfast was served at 8:00 am.

As soon as breakfast was consumed, we scattered about the park. Paul Zellar brought in his solar panels with the help of Don Meyer and his trailer. Paul had made battery chargers for each of the four radio stations who were to participate in the exercise. Lou Meisch and Alan Groneler began raising antennas. This in itself was a sight to see. Lou accurately threw wire antennas over the highest trees possible for good transmissions. John Sundstrom set up shop in an RV. Joe Veldhuis started digital operations in the park pavilion. John Fischer worked out of two "easy ups" . Lou Meisch brought back his Roadtdrek and I , with the help of the rest of the gang put up a two room tent. (The hardest thing I faced was dragging four golf cart batteries from home to the park and locate them in the tent. Thanks to Roger Cox).

At 2 pm, transmissions and receivers hummed to life. CW filled the air with phone operation. Casual strollers in the park, kids and bicyclists wandered nearby. Some were bold enough to ask what the dickens was going on. John Sundstrom ran digital Psk 31. He actually had a pile up on his computer, but managed to capture two out of three contacts before the third one got away.

At noon Phyllis produced lunch primarily consisting of pizza, water melon, cookies. Then it was back the radios. All afternoon the sounds continued. The weather was warm and sunny. Very pleasant out.

The Village of Spring Lake President, County Emergency Manager and a representative of the Village Council appeared. The six stations were pretty impressive. Glen Henkle, Bill Franks and Randy Stano, Boyd Mason, old members of NOARC stopped in to observe.

At six o'clock in the evening, family members appeared with the food for a potluck dinner. We ate well. Dedicated Gordon Stockhill continued CW operations without stopping for dinner. Operators continued thru the night.

After supper, a drawing was held for a new Baofeng handheld 5 watt radio. Lucky Alan Groneler won it. Congratulations Al.

Contacts were made on 6, 15, 20, 40, and 80 meters. The batteries which had been charged all day by the solar panels continued to provide power all night. Some hams went home to bed for a few hours. Some chose to stay in the park at their stations all night.

Contacts continued into the afternoon. By two o'clock, most of us were ready to give up for another year. When we broke camp, more than five hundred contacts had been made. Most of them were CW and digital in nature. Like Lou Meisch says "A good time was had by all."

Apologies for any errors of omission in this report. Phyllis was busy with cooking and I was busy trying to log CW for Mark Stern.

Respectfully submitted; Phyllis and Roger Simmons

July 2012 Treasurer's Report

Starting balance 5/24/2012: 1,965.54

Deposits:

Dues, Wyant on 5/30	+25.00
Dues, Henkle on 6/24	20.00

Paypal Credits & debits:

Dues, Veldhuis net	+ 67.67
Key sale, no base, net	+ 36.00
Baofeng HT Radio	- 48.68

Sub total	+ 54.99	54.99
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Ending balance as of June 25, 2012	2,065.53
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(Balance agrees with Chase bank)

Grand haven Comm Fund balance 05/31/12 5,695.29



Above: a shot from the June 21 Field Day site survey meeting

July 2012 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

July 4:

Ferrysburg Fourth of July parade
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

July 8:

Grand Haven triathlon
7:30 AM – 1:00 PM

July 14:

QRP in the park, Helder Park, Holland
3:00 PM – dusk

July 26:

NOARC foxhunt
Time/location TBD

CERT meeting, Fillmore EOC
7:00 PM

July 28:

CMARC Hamfest, Lansing
<http://www.centralmiarc.com>

NOARC net control schedule:

July 3: **Joe, N8FQ**

July 10: **Bev, KC8JWA**

July 17: **Roger, WB0DGF**

July 24: **John, N8YQD**

July 31: **John, N8YQD**

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