

SPARK

July 2013

the monthly newsletter of the

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

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Public service season is in full swing! There's an event every weekend this month, leading up to the Coast Guard Festival Grand Parade on August 3. Keep an eye on the club reflector for announcements on these events as they come, and keep your batteries charged!

NOARC board of directors

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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

Field Day 2013

Preparation for this year's field day exercise began several weeks before the appointed date. The members of the club met and decided to have the event in Central Park in Spring Lake. The site was used last year, There are some tall trees, grassy patches, parking and bathroom facilities. The park is located near the intersection of Fruitport Road and M-104.

The Thursday before the appointed weekend, members held their monthly meeting at the park and decided on the number of stations and their locations.. The evening was topped off with hot dog supper .. Sometime in the morning, around 6:00am Phyllis and Roger tumbled out of bed and finished loading their maroon Suburban . Plans were to have a two room tent, for the 24 hour period. All this was laboriously packed in the truck, which also held two mattress pads and an accumulation of information signs to be posted. Dawn was breaking as we unloaded the equipment in the kitchen area and tent for our CW station. The weather predicted possible rainstorms during the operation. It always rains on field day doesn't it? Anyway, we were ready for it ,We had rain gear, tarps, and ponchos at the ready..

As we unloaded, Sgt Teuney from the Spring Lake Ferrysburg Department of Public Safety appeared. He opened up the park bathroom. None too soon either. Roger started throwing his 6 inch chain with its light line over the first tree. . . This supported a large wire 80 m loop. Mark Stern appeared with the NOARC mascot , "Liebe", a large German Shepherd. Mark saved the day with a tennis ball throwing device. With this, he pitched a ball attached to a light cord over the largest tree..The loop antenna was now complete.

Jim Wolters arrived with a professional array of large solar panels. These panels were mounted on a trailer complete with inverters and a backup generator. This set up sent 120 V AC to all four radio stations, Craig Otto and Roger Cox loaded the batteries to the 80 m station.. For example, 120 V were converted to 12 volts DC current , The DC current, then charged the individual batteries for radio transmission.

John Sundstrom showed up with a large mobile home. It would have been large enough to hold everyone present, if it had been necessary. John covered digital transmissions with Joe Veldhuis, Alan Groenleer and others.

Don Meyer set up a large GOTA (Get On The Air station) with his "EasyUp.", A high transmission point on an inverted "V" completed a 40 m CW station. 98% of it was manned by a dedicated expert; Gordon Stockhill.

At 8am those present took a breakfast break . Phyllis Simmons laid out McDonalds egg Mc Muffins,fruit cereal and donut holes. fruit salad, donut holes .

After breakfast all pitched in to construct a neat compound . Lunch consisted of pizza , cookies, brownies, pop, coffee, sliced watermelon, cantaloupe and fruit salad.

As 2 pm rolled around, code oscillators , competed with sharp voiced call signs.,Tensions mounted. . Park visitors came by scratching their heads . Posters had been hung telling the world that the North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club was on the air. Hams explained what was going on to anyone who was lucky enough to pass by. The afternoon past with only a couple negligible drops of moisture from the sky. The sun came out and the solar panels greedily accepted the rays, turning them into electricity feeding the radio stations.

The hum of the radios settled down to an imperceptible drone. Around 6:00pm, wives, and other members of the NOARC brought in their special dishes. Most of the stations went quiet as all gathered for dinner. After a satisfying dinner, including fruit pizza for desert, operators returned to their stations.

A nearly full moon came out. Transmissions continued well into Sunday morning. Some left for a rest break. They returned refreshed to continue. Gordon Stockhill, in particular, stayed through the night. He made contact after contact with incredible persistence. The Air Force veteran continued CW, hour after hour. As Dawn appeared, the automatic sprinkler turned on. It soaked Gordon and his equipment. He continued to send, soaked, but undaunted.

Around midnight, Phyllis and Roger took a rest break, in the back of their truck. Roger woke up at 4:20 a.m. to see the lights were on in his station. Joe Veldhuis was sending CW. Roger tried to log contacts for him, with limited success. Roger had trouble remembering his call time sign, at that time of the morning.

Breakfast brought on an egg scramble, with cheese, potatoes and ham. It also included oatmeal, cold cereal, fruit and leftovers from Saturday night. Hot coffee and tea had been available all night. Donut holes, danish rolls, were also included.

As the day wore on, more duplicated contacts were made. The weather continued to be beautiful. We decided to close operations shortly after lunch. Sandwiches and snacks were the order of the day. As usual, everyone pitched in to help dismantle the stations. We struck the tent and pull down the antennas from the trees. Enough cannot be said for the cooperative efforts of these hams. Our apologies for any omissions and any errors in this report. Like Lou Meisch says "A good time was had by all".

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis and Roger Simmons

July 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

July 13:

Indianapolis Hamfest, Indianapolis, IN
<http://www.indyhamfest.com>

July 14:

FRRL Hamfest, Aurora, IL
<http://www.frll.org>

July 18:

NOARC annual foxhunt
See <http://www.w8cso.org> for up-to-date info

July 20:

GM ARC Summer Trunk Swap, Utica, MI
<http://www.gmarc.org>

July 21:

KARSFest, Peotone, IL
<http://w9az.com/karsfest.html>

July 27:

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

NOARC net control schedule:

No net control schedule was available at the time of publication. E-mail me at editor@w8cso.org if you want to get on the list! See <http://www.w8cso.org/calendar> for updated information.

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