

SPARK

the monthly newsletter of the

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

March 2013



Read all about Roger, WB0DGF's presentation on WSPR, 4NEC2 and log periodic antennas on page 2!

IN THIS ISSUE

February minutes.....pg 2

Events calendar.....pg 3

Swap 'n Shop.....pg 4

NOARC board of directors

President

John Fischer, KC8UNY – president@w8cso.org – (616) 402-0665

Vice President

Don Meyer, KB8ODB – vp@w8cso.org – (231) 206-9270

Secretaries

Roger & Phyllis Simmons, N8RXC & KB8NLN – secretary@w8cso.org – (616) 846-3496

Treasurer

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 February 2013 meeting

The February meeting was brought to order at 6:43 PM with the traditional round of introductions. John, KC8UNY stated that the treasurer's report had not yet been received at the time of the meeting. The meeting room at the Spring Lake District Library has been reserved for meetings on March 21 and April 18.

Discussion of Field Day followed. As Paul, W8IQE has moved to Sparta, he will no longer be able to provide the solar power system he had brought to previous years' Field Day events. It was mentioned that Andy, N8HUB has some panels he could provide. The battery chargers that Paul made are still in the club's possession, however an inverter is still needed. It was mentioned that, in lieu of solar power, commercial power may be used to charge batteries, so long as it is not connected to an active station.

Several possibilities for venues were mentioned. Rycenga Park, Spring Lake Central Park and Coast Guard Park were leading candidates. The park near the school in Nunica was mentioned as well, but concerns were voiced that it may be too busy.

It was decided that the club will target class 4A again this year, though others are welcome to set up additional stations. Planning will continue at next month's meeting. This year's Field Day will occur on June 22 and 23.

Don, KB8ODB mentioned that Skywarn training is being held in Muskegon on March 16 at 2 PM. It was mentioned that this is the same day as the Marshall hamfest, though the hamfest is much earlier in the morning, thus a conflict is unlikely.

Roger, WB0DGF addressed the lack of APRS coverage in the area. The idea of setting up a digipeater on the tower at the Spring Lake Fire Department was discussed. Roger mentioned that he has a radio he could contribute, and Joe, N8FQ offered a TNC for the project. Don, KB8ODB said he will discuss the idea with the village.

After a brief break for cookies and conversation, Roger, WB0DGF began a presentation on several topics. He began with a demonstration of the WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporting) software, and the wsprnet.org spot database. He then turned to a presentation on antenna design and modeling. First, he demonstrated the design of a log periodic dipole array antenna using his LPCAD software (which, despite multiple pleas, he refused to provide source code for). He then demonstrated modeling and simulation of the antenna design using 4NEC2, a graphical front-end for the NEC2 (Numerical Electromagnetic Code, version 2) software, originally developed in the 1970s.

The announcement of the library's imminent closing brought the meeting to an end at 8:20 PM.

March 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

March 16:

Michigan Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall
<http://www.w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest>

Skywarn training, 2:00 PM
Muskegon Community College, Stevenson Center, room 1100

March 17:

TMRA Radio/Computer/Electronics Hamfest, Perrysburg, OH
<http://www.tmrahamradio.org>

March 21:

NOARC monthly business meeting, 6:30 PM
Spring Lake District Library

March 30:

ARGYL Hamfest, Lowell
<http://www.argyl.org>

NOARC net control schedule:

March 5: **Joe, N8FQ**
March 12: **Bev, KC8JWA**
March 19: **Bev, KC8JWA**
March 26: **John, N8YQD**

There are still slots open in April, so e-mail me at editor@w8cso.org if you want to take the net!

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