

SPARK

the monthly newsletter of the

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

September 2011

“Covered by all four seasons”



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Look on the next two pages for fox hunt reports from Roger, Phyllis and Paul!

NOARC board of directors

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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

Roger and Phyllis' fox hunt report

The members of NOARC were to meet in the parking lot of the C3 Exchange, across from the Spring Lake Library, at 6:30 pm. As it happened, Phyllis and I were unfortunate enough to have found the fox on the last fox hunt. So this time it was our turn to be "the fox".

We started out early to set up our location a couple days ahead of time. The boundaries were to be in Spring Lake. To the west was US 31, to the north was Spring Lake, (the water). To the east the boundary was to be Fruitport Road. The south boundary was Lloyds Bayou. After driving around on a half tank of gas, we decided on Fall Street at the intersection of Spring Street.

We loaded up the Volvo and entered the parking lot shortly after six. We had just started to get out the hand helds when Joe Veldhuis appeared. He had already checked the weather and it looked like there wouldn't be rain for the foreseeable future. Next President Paul Zellar appeared at the parking lot. He had set up his answering machine with a timer and a message that identifies his station on two meters and repeated it with a few seconds delay. This enabled him to check and calibrate his direction finding antennas , (there were two of them). Lou Meisch was next in line to appear at the parking lot ready to do battle with the fox.

When John Fischer arrived, he assumed the duties of net control and the hunt began. The fox transmitted on a frequency of 147.52 MHz. Net control was on 145.490. John timed the event. The fox was to transmit for thirty seconds (or one minute, foxes discretion). Five minutes were lapsed before the next transmission. John called out a two minute warning before the next fox transmission. This was for the purpose of members finding a parking place to set up their direction finding antennas .

Phyllis and I took off in a westerly direction and circled around the block to throw off any observers who wanted to see which way the fox was heading. You may remember, our hiding spot Fall and Spring Streets are south and east of the parking lot.

We settled in for the game to begin. We advised net control that we were ready. He had us give our first transmission. I had previously tried to set up some background noise of some old time radio programs and tried to synchronize it with the foxes transmission. It turned out to just annoy KB8NLN, who was sitting next to me. Each five minute transmission Phyllis and I took turns transmitting. After about three transmissions we started giving hints where we were located. Not good hints, but hints never the less. I recall that one of the hints was "We can see Lake traffic from here". The lake traffic we could see wasn't boat traffic. It was the automobile traffic on Lake Street.

Another transmission hint was that we could see bicycle traffic on the bridge. There was a bridge over Lloyds Bayou where Lake Street crosses. Lake Street was a few

blocks west of our location, but we could look between houses on Fall Street and see bicycles crossing the bridge.

It was around that time that President Paul Zellar confidently rode directly up to us and claimed victory in the hunt. Paul had managed to accurately get a couple azimuth lines to our location.

Next Lou Meisch and Joe Veldhuis rolled up. We finally ended up transmitting to net control, (John Fischer) that " We liked the seasons of Michigan, but sometimes Spring seems to run into Fall. "

With that last hint, John rolled up to the fox and officially closed the hunt. We headed to the golden arches for some well deserved ice cream.

Respectfully submitted Phyllis and Roger Simmons

Paul's fox hunt report

On August 18 NOARC substituted a Fox Hunt for the monthly meeting. We met at the C3 Exchange parking lot in Spring Lake, and the hunt area was restricted to the village bounded by the river and lake plus the East Fruitport Road. Roger (N8RXC) and his XYL Phyllis (KB8NLN) served as the fox. There were three cars to chase the fox, John (KC8UNY), myself, Paul (W8IQE), and a dual, Joe (N8FQ) and Lou (N8KYO).

At the appointed time the fox transmitted and we found the line was northeast/southwest. I quickly drove to Mill Point Park for the second transmission five minutes later. The line was now east/west, putting the fox south and east of the parking lot. A fast trip to the Spring Lake School parking lot allowed me to be prepared for the next transmission, which was a little north of east. Driving there the Simmon's Volvo was found near the intersection of Fall and Spring streets. Joe and Lou arrived soon after, followed by John. The group immediately adjourned to the local McDonald's for refreshments.

September 2011 Treasurer's Report

Balance as of July 28, 2011 (agrees with Chase Bank).....	2,067.76
checks: GRARA Hamfest.....	20.00
Balance as of August 28,2011.....	2,047.76

Grand Haven Community Foundation Balance..... ..	\$5,527.43
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September 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 Restaurant in Spring Lake
7:00 AM

Every Saturday:

Breakfast at Vic's Restaurant in Spring Lake
7:00 AM

September 10:

GRAHamfest, Wyoming
<http://www.w8dc.org>

QRP in the park
Helder Park, Holland
5:30 PM

September 17:

Peoria Superfest, Peoria, IL
<http://www.peoriasuperfest.com>

September 18:

Adrian ARC hamfest, Adrian
<http://www.adrianhamfest.com>

September 22:

NOARC meeting/QRP in the park
William Ferry Park, Ferrysburg
6:30 PM

NOARC net control schedule:

September 6: **Phyllis, KB8NLN**
September 13: **John, KC8UNY**
September 20: **Joe, N8FQ**
September 27: **John, N8YQD**

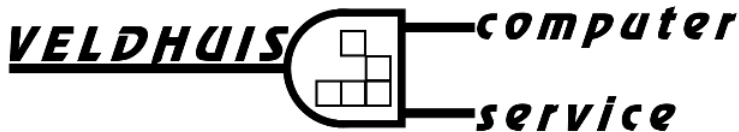
Net control volunteers are needed – *especially* with half the club leaving for winter!
E-mail jvn8fq@gmail.com to get on the list!

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

The **Te-Ne-Ke** is still in production - \$50 shipped anywhere



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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:** _____

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