SPARK

the monthly newsletter of the

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

<u>January 2013</u>

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Read all about the 2012 NOARC christmas potluck dinner on page 2!

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 December 2012 meeting

It was a dreary evening with cold drizzle coming down on the Spring Lake library. It was only 5:30 the evening, one of the shortest days of the year. Phyllis brought her food for the annual Christmas party. Pie, salad, coffee and tea.

The library had tables and chairs waiting. Two conference rooms had been converted to one for the party. Each table was paired with another seven foot table. This arrangement allowed eight people to be seated.

As six o'clock rolled around, John and Sally Sundstrom appeared with a large spiral cut ham. Other members appeared with smoked salmon, two kinds of potatoes, with deviled eggs, sausages, rice crispy treats, colored cup cakes, banana bread, beets, all the fixings.

The food was arranged cafeteria style. A slow cooker was placed on the end, of the serving table with sausages. This was followed by potatoes, ham, salads, vegetables and desserts.

The room became quiet as the hams gathered around the food and filled their plates.

Talk ranged from radio and frequency exchanges to weather. Next, the desserts were consumed. I was finishing a cupcake and a piece of apple pie, when John Sundstrom began to prepare for the drawing of the evening door prize, a Baofeng two meter hand held radio. John said he had enough radios at home and so eliminated himself from the drawing. He put everyones name in the box and held it up so his wife Sally could draw a name from the box without seeing into it. Julia Fischer was the lucky winner. Julia promptly turned and radio over to her husband Dave Fischer. Dave was last seen trying to read the owner's manual on the Chinese radio.

After the meal was consumed, we picked up plates, silverware, napkins and excess food. The various baskets and boxes were picked up for the trip home. Full satisfied radio operators drifted from the party at about seven minutes after eight. We made sure that the room was as clean as we found it and checked out with a librarian in charge.

Merry Christmas was wished by all and that's what we wish for you. 73's

Respectfully submitted: Phyllis and Roger Simmons

January treasurer's report

Ending balance as of 11/28/2012	1,866.12
12/18 deposit 6 keys (3 with base;3 w/o)	240.46
New balance	2,106. 58
(Balance agrees with Chase bank)	

Grand Haven Community Foundation balance 5,556.07

YTD Te Ne Ke sales are 21 keys (the most in 10 years)

January 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

<u>January 31:</u>

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

NOARC net control schedule:

No net control schedule was available at press time. Please check <u>www.w8cso.org/calendar</u> for the latest info!

<u>Swap 'n shop</u>

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



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Grand Haven, MI 49417		

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<u>rebiuary 2015</u>			

If you think the weather's bad now, just think about what it'll be like in a few months! In the meantime, read on for minutes from the January club meeting...

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Minutes of the January 2013 meeting

With most of the club in Florida, and a brewing snowstorm discouraging travel for the rest, the January meeting was sparsely-attended. Joe N8FQ, Craig K8CRC, Skip K8RRA, Gordon KA8UQT, Roger WB0DGF, Doug K8EXB, Don KB8ODB and John KC8UNY braved the elements and brought the meeting to order at 6:47 PM.

After introductions, a discussion of the volunteer emergency service situation began. It was mentioned that there will be no Skywarn training in Ottawa county this year. The Kent county session in Grandville is being promoted to Ottawa residents, however the club is recommending the Muskegon county session, to be held on Saturday, March 16 at 2 PM at Muskegon Community College, room 1100.

Due to paperwork issues, and the transition to a new Region 6 DEC, Don KB8ODB's expected appointment as ARES EC for Ottawa county has been delayed, and at this time there is no active ARES program in the county. Work is being done to rectify this. In the meantime, events will continue to be coordinated with the club.

Don KB8ODB is looking for volunteers for an amateur radio demonstration for a scouting group at Edgewood School, on March 14 from 6 PM to 8 PM.

The treasurer's report was read by John KC8UNY. This was followed by a discussion of useful ways in which the club's funds could be utilized, and plans for handling club assets in the event of disbandment. These matters will be discussed with John N8YQD upon his return from Florida.

It was reported that the Te-Ne-Ke is currently being sold on eBay for \$55 with free shipping. Order volumes are high, however production of the new design is a slow and labor-intensive process.

There was discussion of a new e-mail reflector on the w8cso.org server. It was decided that an announcement list would be established, separate from the Yahoo group currently in use. It will be necessary to collect and verify members' e-mail addresses for enrollment in this new list.

Field Day was mentioned. Several ideas for venues and stations were floated. The need for overnight operators was again discussed, as well as the frequent issues with weather forcing us to shut down during these hours, regardless of the availability of operators.

It was mentioned that there will be a 5K race in Grand Haven on February 8, however the club's assistance will not be needed, as runners will be keeping to the boardwalk and sidewalks.

The upcoming Marshall hamfest was mentioned. It is not certain if the club will be purchasing tables for the event this year, due to overcrowding issues encountered in previous years.

The club's plans for weather spotting operations for the coming year were discussed. Due to concerns about the Ottawa County Skywarn program, it was decided that the club will operate its own spotting nets, and will not link with the Holland 147.06 repeater. Joe N8FQ will work as coordinator for this program. The idea of partnership with the Muskegon County program was discussed, including the possibility of linking with the 146.82 repeater. This would require additional discussions with MCECS personnel.

Doug K8EXB then began a presentation on radio astronomy. However, due to confusion about when the program began, the presentation was cut short. The meeting was officially adjourned shortly before 8 PM.

February treasurer's report

Ending balance as of 12/28/2012	2,106.58
deposit Dues, Groneler	70.00
New balance	2,176. 58

Grand Haven Community Foundation balance 5,556.07

I am writing this from Florida. Te Ne Ke's continue to sell. I have shipped 3 so far this month. The weather here has been quite warm with several days in the low 80's. Ben K8AR, Lou N8KYO and Mark K8MAZ are heard checking into the 9 AM bathrobe net on 14.236. Next month brings the Orlando hamfest on Feb 8 & 9.

February 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

Febuary 16:

Mid-Winter Interclub Swapfest, Brookfield, WI http://www.w9rh.org

Febuary 17:

Livonia ARC Swap & Shop http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop

<u>Febuary 23:</u> Cabin Fever Hamfest, LaPorte, IN http://lpcarc.org

NOARC net control schedule:

February 5: **Joe, N8FQ** February 12: **Bev, KC8JWA** February 19: February 26: **John, KC8UNY**

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

It's always hard to fill the net control schedule during the winter, so e-mail me at <u>editor@w8cso.org</u> if you can take a night!

<u>Swap 'n shop</u>

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



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

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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, KB80DB 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

<u>March 16:</u>

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

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

<u>March 17:</u>

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

March 21:

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

<u>March 30:</u> ARGYL Hamfest, Lowell <u>http://www.argyl.org</u>

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 <u>editor@w8cso.org</u> if you want to take the net!

<u>Swap 'n shop</u>

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



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<u>April 2013</u>

Winter just keeps dragging on, but some relief is finally in sight. Read about things that will take your mind off the cold weather on page 2!

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Minutes of the March 2013 meeting

At six thirty five John Sundstrom kicked off the meeting with a roll call. Of the nine attendees, we welcomed three new members: Brian Beimers, Ed Cech and Andy Suszka.

Upcoming ham fests to put on your calendar would be; Lowell on March 30th, Hudsonville on June 1st, Cadillac May 1st, and the big one, (attendance of 25,000 in 2012) in Dayton OH, on May 17, 18 and 19.

John Sundstrom reported sales this winter of 17 Te Ne Keys. Three of these were out of country. Selling price of the key is \$55.00. Cost of a unit without a base is \$38.00. Advertising on line is paying off for the club.

With Spring in the air, we are reminded that parades, foot races and water sculling regattas are looking for our help.

We are starting to think of Field Day on June 22nd and 23rd. Once again, our club will be using Spring Lake Central Park for the event.

A fine evening program on digital radio was presented by Joe Veldhuis. Joe cleared up many questions on the subject of Echolink.

On March 21st, members of NOARC made a presentation about Amateur Radio to the Fruitport Cub Scout Pack. John Fischer and Don Meyer set up an antenna in the Elementary School gym.

They had radios for the scouts to try. Gordon Stockhill and Roger demonstrated CW on code practice oscillators. The scouts had a practice sheet made by Phyllis showing the Morse code alphabet and places to spell their names. Then they spelled their names with the CW keys. Phyllis explained "Fox hunts" and techniques for locating the "fox".

The meeting was adjourned around 7:30. We had plenty of time for coffee, cookies and socializing before the closing of the library.

Please note that the next meeting will be on April 18, at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted; Phyllis and Roger Simmons

April 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

April 5:

AES Superfest, Milwaukee, WI http://www.aesham.com

<u>April 18:</u>

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

April 20:

Milford Swap-N-Shop, Highland, MI http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/milford-swap-n-shop

North Central Indiana Hamfest, Peru, IN http://nci-hamfest.net

NOARC net control schedule:

April 2: **Bev, KC8JWA** April 9: **Joe, N8FQ** April 16: **Bev, KC8JWA** April 23: **Roger, N8RXC** April 30: **John, N8YQD**

E-mail me at editor@w8cso.org if you want to get on the list for May. All slots are open!

<u>Swap 'n shop</u>

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<u>May 201</u>	<u>.3</u>
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	EMBEDDED RESEANOL The Tick-4 Kit The Tiny CMOS Keyer-4 Kit Features: Iambic Modes A & B, Speed Adjust, Tune, Siddome, Paddle Select Manual Mode, Beacon Mode
sporse	Manual Kay Mode, Beacon Modes A & B. Speed Manual Kay Mode, Beacon Model, Hon- Voiatile Parameter Storage & A (2) So Character Mes sage Memories.
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Several members showed off their amateur radio kits at the April meeting. Read about them on page 2!

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Minutes of the April 2013 meeting

The April meeting was a fun group of home made kits and home brewed equipment. John Fischer started the meeting around 6:30 at the Spring Lake Library. When Phyllis and Roger Simmons arrived, John Sundstrom already had started laying out his gear on the long tables at the front of the room. Other members filtered in, some showing their wares informally.

John Sundstrom said that he has sold 30 TeNeKes in the last four months. Only twenty one were sold all last year. Thanks to Doug Furton, Craig Christilaw John Sundstrom et al for their dedication and efforts in this project.

Upcoming hamfests were discussed. Cadillac on the first Saturday in May, Hudsonville the first Saturday in June.

President Fischer said that Grand Haven Public Safety has requested amateur radio operators to provide emergency communications for the "Caddyshack " five K race on next Saturday the 20th. He outlined the predominantly inner city course to the group. Volunteers were to report at the Grand Haven Police Department at 8:00 am.

Boyd Mason,the club innovator and ace inventor, introduced a micro version of the Te Ne Ke. He advised that those wanting to make one should use a nylon 4-40 screw to retain the terminals on it.

Field Day activities were discussed. On June 22 and 23 this year, we will try to run stations with battery power. Using solar panels, we will attempt to send AC power to each station. Then, using individual chargers, keep the batteries full. Additional contest points are given to the club for using the alternate power.

The next event was the display and discussion of the home made equipment. John Sundstrom produced a one watt transceiver called "Small wonder". This was a kit made radio operating QRP on 20 meters. Another, mentioned by John, was a "Little Squirrel" operating on a frequency of 14.060 MHz.

Ben Docter was up next. He displayed a complete radio station in a suitcase and a PSR3 receiver.

Boyd Mason showed and demonstrated a "Morse Machine". This is an incredible machine that sends and receives morse code. It is capable of carrying a QSO with the operator and a host of other functions.

Roger Simmons dragged in his first electronic project, a Heathkit multimeter in a brown vinyl case. Then came an all band receiver complements of Heathkit. Next, he demonstrated an electronic touch keyer in an Altoids can.

The rest of the meeting was spent looking over the artifacts. We devoured Hermina Docter's beautifully crafted white frosted cake with our coffee. Respectfully submitted: Phyllis and Roger Simmons

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Every Saturday:

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

<u>May 4-11:</u>

Tulip Time Festival – contact Tom, K8TB (k8tb@bosscher.org) to sign up

- May 8: Volksparade
- May 9: Kinderparade
- May 11: Muziekparade

<u>May 4:</u>

Cadillac Hamfest http://www.wexaukeearc.org

<u>May 5:</u>

DeKalb Hamfest, Sandwich, IL http://www.karc-club.org

<u>May 17:</u>

Dayton Hamvention http://hamvention.org

<u>May 30:</u>

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

NOARC net control schedule:

May 7: Bev, KC8JWAJune 4: Bev, KC8JWAMay 14: Roger, N8RXCJune 11: Greg, KC8HXOMay 21: Joe, N8FQJune 18: Joe, N8FQMay 28: John, KC8UNYJune 25: Phyllis, KB8NLNE-mail me at editor@w8cso.org if you want to get on the list for July. All slots are open!

<u>Swap 'n shop</u>

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Field Day 2013 – June 22-23 – Spring Lake Central Park

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Minutes of the May 2013 meeting

On a very pleasent Thursday evening, seventeen NOARC members gathered at the Spring Lake Public Library for the 6:30 meet. At 6:40, President John Fischer called the meeting to order and roll call.

With less than a month to go for the June 22nd - 23rd Field Day, the topic for the evening was just that. June 20th is the antenna planning session, meeting at the Spring Lake Central Park for a hot dog supper and brain storming. On Saturday, June 22, breakfast is offered at 8:00 a.m. and set - up begins. The contest begins at 2:00 p.m. , ends on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Saturday evening is family potluck supper at 6:00 with dinnerware, meat and drinks provided.

OK, back to antennas. Lou Miesch, our antenna person, informed us that he could not attend, but that he brought coax and a caged dipole with him.

The power supply [solar] will be supplied by Jim Wolters. The members providing a station should be prepared with a charged battery and heavy extention cords.

Don Meyer will again have an E - log system for computer recording contacts. This has worked great in the past couple of Field Days.

And the highlight of the evening was an interesting power supply presentation given by Jim Wolters. He demonstrated lamps, bulbs and lanterns. Some of these were his patents, All were most impressive.

At about 8:00 the members engaged in conversation about, what else? Power supplies, lights and antennas. Most then adjourned to Lou's van, in the parking lot, to see what goodies he could offer for the cause.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis and Roger Simmons



Noarc field day power setup

May Treasurer's Report

Ending balance as of 12/28/ 2012		2,106.58
Deposit :key		55.00
Deposit: Dues(Beimers;Chek;Gronler)		145.00
Deposit: key		70.00
Deposit: 28 keys via paypal		1271.33
Check 1194 to Comtron-repeater	-	238.00
April 18 balance		3,409.91
4/19 Postage to Australia	-	24.30
4/22 Wexaukee Hamfest	-	20.00
4/22 Independent Repeater Assn	-	35.00
5/3 Hayes for Liability Insurance	-	200.00
Balance as of May 3		3,133.61

Grand Haven Community Foundation 12/3	81 5,556.07
First quarter gain	477.53
Balance as of April 1,2013	6,033.06

ACORD.		INSURANC	E	BINDER				DATE 5/1/2013
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PRODUCER	PHONE (A/C, No. Ext.)	(612) 333-3323		OMPANY			IDER #	
	FAX (A/C, No. Ext.)	((10) 272 7270	T	he Hanover Insurance (Group)		
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Minneapolis, MN 55402			\vdash	THIS BINDER IS ISSUED	TOEX	TENDCOVER	AGE IN THE AI	BOVE NAMED COMPANY
			1	PER EXPIRING POLICY #	:			
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AGENCY CUSTOMER ID #:								
INSURED: North Ottawa Amateur Radio Box 976	Club		1					
Grand Haven, MI 49417								
Attn: John Sundstrom Customer ID #: 201106								
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AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

©ACORD CORPORATION 1993

May 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

June 1: IRA Hamfest, Hudsonville http://www.w8ira.org

June 15: Midland Hamfest http://www.w8kea.org

June 16: Six Meter Club of Chicago Hamfest, Wheaton, IL http://www.k9ona.com

<u>June 20:</u> NOARC monthly business/Field Day planning meeting, 6:30 PM Spring Lake Central Park

<u>June 22-23:</u> Field Day Spring Lake Central Park

NOARC net control schedule:

June 4: **Bev, KC8JWA** June 11: **Greg, KC8HXO** June 18: **Joe, N8FQ** June 25: **Phyllis, KB8NLN** E-mail me at <u>editor@w8cso.org</u> if you want to get on the list for July. All slots are open!

<u>Swap 'n shop</u>

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



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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

President

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

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

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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

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

<u>July 13:</u>

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

<u>July 14:</u> FRRL Hamfest, Aurora, IL <u>http://www.frrl.org</u>

<u>July 18:</u> NOARC annual foxhunt See <u>http://www.w8cso.org</u> 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

<u>July 27:</u> 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 <u>editor@w8cso.org</u> if you want to get on the list! See <u>http://www.w8cso.org/calendar</u> for updated information.

<u>Swap 'n shop</u>

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



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PO Box 976					
Grand Haven, MI 49417					

SPARK

the monthly newsletter of the

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

August 2013

Coast Guard Festival 2013 is underway! Nearly 1500 runners participated in the 5k/10k race last Saturday, and the Grand Parade this coming Saturday is shaping up to be an excellent event, with moderate temps and no rain foreseen!

See the next page for the results of our yearly fox hunt...

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NOARC board of directors

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Main RX: PL 94.8 - Grand Rapids RX: PL 91.5 - EchoLink: N8FQ-R #469574

NOARC 2013 Fox Hunt

As seven o'clock approached, Phyllis and I rolled into the parking lot across from the Spring Lake Library. John Sundstrom came next. Then John Fischer and Gordon Stockhill. John Sundstrom was selected to be the Fox. The evening was still warm. We readied our antennas and set the simplex frequency for the Fox Hunt at 146.520. Working with a borrowed adapter for a S0234 and SMA for my Yaesu, handheld, we were ready for the first transmission.

Meanwhile, the Fox took off for his hiding place. This place was defined as being in the open at a place where the public can go. The boundaries were M– 104 (Savidge) to the North, US 31 and the 31 Bridge to the west. Fruitport road was the east boundary. After a five-minute interval, the Fox transmitted his first signal. It lasted for about 30 seconds, then silence for another 5 minutes. John Fischer acted as Hunt control and issued a two-minute warning before the next transmission. After the first nondescript message, the second one started giving hints where he was hiding. The Fox reported being where a lot of traffic was a block away. Then the report was that bicyclists were riding by and his spot and he had a nice breeze. Finally, the Fox reported that he could see a church from his location.

Phyllis and I drove to Division Street from Exchange Street to the south terminus of Division. Suddenly,the "Fox" called out that someone had just driven past him. We backtracked and found John Sundstrom " the Fox " parked on Division, near the Exchange intersection.

As Gordon Stockhill drove W. On Exchange St. Roger took a four foot length of antenna, tied to a white handkerchief. He waved this from the middle of the intersection . At last, all had found the fox. It was still hot. All present indicated a desire for ice cream. When we pulled up to the Front Porch ice cream store,we took relief with a variety of flavored cones. Thus ended another successful fox hunt.

Respectfully submitted Phyllis and Roger Simmons

August 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

August 3:

UP Hamfest, Escanaba, MI <u>http://www.dcars.org/hamfest</u>

Angola Hamfest, Angola, IN <u>http://llarc.tripod.com</u>

August 4:

Seaway Trunk Swap, Port Huron, MI http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/seaway-trunk-swap-1

<u>August 15:</u>

NOARC annual QRP outing, William Ferry Park, 6 PM See <u>http://www.w8cso.org</u> for up-to-date info

August 24:

SARA Swap & Trunk Sale, Owosso, MI <u>http://www.w8qqq.org</u>

NOARC net control schedule:

August 6: John, KC8UNY August 13: John, N8YQD August 20: Roger, N8RXC August 27: Joe, N8FQ

E-mail me at <u>editor@w8cso.org</u> if you want to get on the list! See <u>http://www.w8cso.org/calendar</u> for updated information.

Swap 'n shop

For Sale: Zenith Trans-Oceanic all-band radios – John Sundstrom, N8YQD **Wanted:** Good, working tubes – Jerome Novotny, K8CCJ – 231-206-1388



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Coast Guard Festival 2013 – successful as always!

Despite scheduling issues, we had a good turnout and got it covered. Pictured here are Jeff KB8QAP, Phyllis KB8NLN, Allen WB0STV, Roger N8RXC, John KC8UNY, Don KB8ODB, Denny N8CTT and Ross N8GMY, making plans and waiting for breakfast.

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NOARC 2013 QRP In The Park

It is August 15th, meeting time for the NOARC and the great outdoors is called for. At 6 pm, a few members arrived for the QRP meeting at the Ferry Park in Ferrysburg. The site is on the Spring Lake Western shore, and offers a variety of boats passing under the bridge. The occasional walkers, in the park, were intrigued with the sounds of Morse code emitting from Mark Sterns rig and the conversations coming from John Sundstrom's Yaesu rig.

Do all clubs have their antenna person? We have our Lou Meisch, who showed up three hours early to ensure that we had operating space. He also took two young teens under his wing. He explained and showed examples of our hobby.

Marks straight key brought in IA5/IZ5NF from Italy and from Florida ND9M.

Roger Simmons got into the act with the straight key and contacted W2TAW, Tommy Williams from Vincent Town, New Jersey.

John Sundstrom worked the teenage net with Phyllis Simmons and Lou Meisch. Next, they worked the Wolverine Net.

As the pleasant evening wore on, members enjoyed sitting and drinking coffee, eating brownies, cookies and chatted about the past and present events. Shortly after 8:15 the members gathered equipment and began departing.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted : Phyllis & Roger Simmons

September 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

<u>September 7:</u> GRAHamfest, Wyoming, MI <u>http://www.w8dc.org</u>

Radio Expo 2013, Belvidere, IL http://www.chicagofmclub.org

<u>September 15:</u> Adrian Hamfest, Adrian, MI <u>http://www.w8tqe.com</u>

September 19:

NOARC monthly business meeting Spring Lake District Library

<u>September 21:</u> GMARC Fall Trunk Swap and Raffle, Utica, MI <u>http://www.gmarc.org</u>

NOARC net control schedule:

September 3: John, KC8UNY September 10: John, N8YQD September 17: Phyllis, KB8NLN September 24: Lou, N8KYO

E-mail me at <u>editor@w8cso.org</u> if you want to get on the list for next month! See <u>http://www.w8cso.org/calendar</u> for updated information.



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North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

October 2013

Two more events pulled off without a hitch this month! Nothing about them in this month's meeting report, though. We talked about Chinese radios instead. Read on, anyway!

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Minutes of the September 2013 Meeting

The evening was wonderful as far as the weather was concerned. Low 70s when we entered the Spring Llibrary for the September meeting. We arrived at 6:20 PM to set up the room with Phyllis's brownies, cookies, coffee and tea. 11 members signed in on the sheet with their names and call signs.

Pres. John Fischer was stuck in Holland with tire troubles on his truck and could not attend the meeting. VP Don Meyer had an operation on a hernia and could not attend. Treas. John Sundstrom called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM . Introductions were made with members giving their names and call signs.

John said IRA (Independent Repeater Association) is asking for help to maintain service throughout Michigan . . As you know, , they are responsible for linking repeaters throughout the state making it possible to talk across Michigan from Grand Haven to the upper Peninsula with your handheld radio on 2 meters. They also maintain the Grand Rapids link (91.5 the subaudible tone) without charge to NOARC. Motion was made by Joe Veldhuis, seconded by Mark Stern, that the club donate \$250 to IRA. Each following year, \$200 will be donated for the same services. The motion was unanimously approved, without dissent.

John Sundstrom also presented two green reflective traffic vests. They were purchased from Harbor Freight in Muskegon for \$4.95 each. Plans are up to obtain approximately 10 vests for emergency traffic direction at parades and race safety on the streets.

Next events on the agenda are as follows:

September 28th,Old boys Oktoberfest marathon, half marathon and 5K race Volunteers are solicited . Meet at The William Ferry Park 7 AM . Shirts and a meal are provided Contact John Fischer At < kc8uny@arrl.net >

October 11th Spring Lake Homecoming parade. Volunteers meet at the Spring Lake Police Department OCEC.

October 19th will be Muskegon Amateur Radio Club Ham Fest at Fellowship Reformed Church 4200 Apple Avenue Muskegon .. Tickets are five dollars in advance and six dollars at the door.

December 7 is the jingle Bell Parade in Grand Haven.

An intermission was held while everyone drank in coffee and, ate brownies, cookies and sliced apples. John Sundstrom and Joe Veldhuis presented the program.

John demonstrated a TYT Chinese made Model TH9000, his recent purchase of a 2 m, mobile radio, with programmable functions . . It was purchased from Radio City, 2663 County Rd. Mounds View , Minnesota, 55112 , at , at a cost of. \$124.00. <Sales@radioinc.com>. the radio was rated as a good value . The owner manual was difficult to read or understand . ,However, software is reportedly available to set up the radio.

Joe Veldhuis described the Runbo X5 Smart Phone, with 440 HT. It is sold online for 370 to 400.00. There is also a keyboard edition out with the same features and priced the same .

Roger Cox presented coils of rope . They were complete with hooks for use as guy wires, to interested attendees, at no cost . Roger would also appreciate help raising his antenna tower on October 5.th at his home 18003 Cherokee Dr,Spring Lake. Phone: 850-0899 <rgcox2@gmail.com>

The official meeting was closed at 7:22 PM. Most members stood by, discussing features of the radios and scarfing dessert .

Respectfully submitted: Phyllis and Roger Simmons

October 2013 calendar of events and net control schedule

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Every Wednesday:

Breakfast at Idle Hour Restaurant in Spring Lake 7:00 AM

Every Saturday:

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October 5: Straits Area ARC Swap and Foxhunt, Petoskey, MI http://www.w8gqn.org

October 11: Spring Lake Homecoming Parade Meet at Spring Lake EOC, 6 PM

October 19: Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest http://www.mcecs.net/Hamfest.htm

October 20: Kalamazoo Hamfest and Computer Expo http://kalamazoohamfest.com

October 21: NOARC monthly business meeting Spring Lake District Library, 6:30 PM

NOARC net control schedule:

October 1: John, KC8UNY October 8: Roger, N8RXC October 15: Bev, KC8JWA October 22: Joe, N8FQ October 29: John, N8YQD E-mail me at editor@w8cso.org if you want to get on the list for next month! See http://www.w8cso.org/calendar for updated information.



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November 2013

The weather's getting chilly, and we've already had our first snowfall of the year. Looks like we might not be having a repeat of last year's late-coming winter. Just remember how hot it was just a month or two ago...

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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 October 2013 Meeting

We arrived at the library around 6:15 in the evening. The librarian had opened the North conference room for our club meeting. Phyllis Simmons laid out a large bowl of popcorn, half of which was caramel coated. Caramel apples were laid out on a tray with sticks for handles in them.

John Sundstrom was present with ARRL films. The room was set up with a DVD projector. Club members appeared around 6:30 PM, and John Sundstrom began the meeting. He discussed the manufacture of Te Ne Keys giving credit to Craig Christilaw for his work in making the keys. Boyd Mason has obtained 29 bases. The keys will sell for \$40 without a base, \$65 with a base. Recently, two have been sold in Australia, one in Buenos Aires and one in France.

John advised that the NOARC has a table, number 16, at the Muskegon Ham Fest on Saturday morning, the 19th of October. Later that day from one till 4pm the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air will take place in Central Park Spring Lake

John Sundstrom next presented an ARRL film circa 1959 " The Hams Wild World ". Members enjoyed the popcorn and caramel apples during the show .

The next meeting will be November 21st. Like Lou Meisch says, "A good time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted: Phyllis and Roger Simmons

October 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

November 16:

Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com

November 21:

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

<u>November 28:</u> Turkey Trot 5K run Grand Haven Department of Public Safety, 8 AM

NOARC net control schedule:

November 5: John, KC8UNY November 12: Joe, N8FQ November 19: Phyllis, KB8NLN November 26: John, N8YQD

E-mail me at <u>editor@w8cso.org</u> if you want to get on the list for next month! See <u>http://www.w8cso.org/calendar</u> for updated information.



NOARC membership form			
Dues:			
Individual: \$25 yearly or \$70 for 3 years			
Family: \$35 yearly or \$75 for 3 years			
Name:	Callsigr	ו:	
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone:	E-mail:		
Make checks payable to NOARC			
Mail form to:			
NOARC			
PO Box 976			
Grand Haven, MI 49417			

the monthly newsletter of the

North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

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December 2013



Before the November

meeting, Andy N8HUB showed off this 2 meter folded loop antenna he built. He mentioned building similar antennas for 6 and 10 meters.

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 November 2013 Meeting

At 6:15 when we arrived at the Spring Lake library, it was sprinkling and about 50°. John Sundstrom was already in the conference room. He had set up a projector and computer for the meeting. At 6:30, members trickled in. Phyllis Simmons had laid out brownies, cookies, apples, coffee and hot chocolate and cups.

Treasurer John Sundstrom said the checkbook has , \$2484.63., the Community Foundation has \$ 6443.00 He has checked the Grand Haven repeater and found that it is still functioning on 8 W without normal power . He asked for a committee to attend the unit . Don Meyer, Andy Suski and Joe Veldhuis were selected.

John Sundstrom advised he has sold 45 Te Ne Keys this year to date .He asked for help putting additional units together. Lou Meisch, Phyllis and Roger Simmons , , then Ben Docter volunteered. . He said he obtained thirty more pieces from Boyd, Mason and material for 100 keys..

Election of officers was held by mutual acclaim. The same officers will be in office next year .

In coming activities, NOARC has been requested to assist with the "Turkey Trot" foot race, on Thanksgiving morning. . Volunteers will meet at GH PS at 7:45 am. The race will start at 8:30 a.m.

On December 7th member volunteers will meet at 5 pm .Volunteers are asked to report to GHPS to coordinate for the "Jingle Bell Parade".

On December 19th at 6:00pm , the Annual Christmas party will be held at the Spring Lake library .A Chinese Baofeng two meter handheld radio.drawing will be held. John Sundstrom will bring a ham. Members are requested to bring a potluck dish to is pass and their own dishes and flatware. Bring your significant other .Drinks will be furnished.

Members enjoyed an ARRL Film as part of the program.

Lisa Merrit, former Mayor of Ferrysberg attended the meeting. She praised the efforts of the NOARC members in assistance during emergencies. Specificly citing western floods She requested and was given information on licensing and regulations.. She told us the story we have all heard. "When all else fails amateur radio will carry the day.

Respectfully submitted: Phyllis and Roger Simmons

December 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

December 7: Jingle Bell Parade Grand Haven Public Safety, 5 PM

December 19:

NOARC annual christmas potluck Spring Lake District Library, 6 PM Door prize: Baofeng dual-band handheld radio



NOARC net control schedule: December 3: John, KC8UNY December 10: John, N8YQD December 17: John, N8YQD December 24: Joe, N8FQ December 31: John, KC8UNY

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