

The Ticker

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone! Hope you are having a pleasant summer.

It sure seems this year is flying by us fast. Here it is already almost August. July wasn't a very exciting month other than the 4th. I hope everyone had a great time on the 4th celebrating with their friends and/or family members. It is too bad the fireworks got postponed due to weather threats. There were two small hamfests that were fairly close in the area: Bowling Green and Van Wert. Neither was very big and attendance was down also. I went to the first one, but couldn't attend the second due to my family reunion. Blood is thicker than water. You know how the saying goes. Well they weren't Norm's relatives, so of course he went to the Van Wert Hamfest. He missed out on some great food though, but he didn't have to put up with everyone.

The August meeting and program will be an Ice Cream Social at the home of Andy (WA8UWQ) and Linda Hubbell. The address is 8823 Shepherd Road near Onsted. Please bring your own bowls, toppings, and lawn or folding chairs. Once again Neil (KC8DAR) will be picking up the main ingredient.

The July program was once again a success. Ted (K8AQM) showed us a video of the South Georgia Dxpedition: VP8GEO 2002. He is great to see how adventurous and enthusiastic others in our hobby can be. We always enjoy the programs that everyone presents. Please feel free to mention if you have something of interest to share with the group as a program. Bill (KA8ARK) will present September's program on ELTs.

We had another Adopt-a-Highway trash pick up day on July 19th. We didn't have as many participants as usual, but we still had a great breakfast at Becky's in Blissfield and were done around 9 o'clock. It didn't seem that we had as much trash as last time, but that is a good thing. It means people aren't littering as much.

As soon as plans come together, we will be running new coax lines at the club station and putting up our 6 meter antenna. Contact Ted if you are willing to be part of this project.

We have lost our coax vendor for the hamfest. Joe the Wire Man passed away this past March. If anyone knows someone who sells wire and coax, please contact them and try to get them to sell at our hamfest. Have them contact Eric (K8JWV). Everyone including our club members always looked forward to buying their coax at our hamfest. We will all miss Joe.

Hope to see you all at the Ice Cream Social.

73,
Ginny (W8TTX)

Force 12 40XK Vertical Dipole

When you travel on a Dxpedition, the idea is to travel light and efficient. Radios are made small today and even amplifiers can be reduced from bulky iron transformers in the power supply to small yet efficient switching power supplies. The real trick is to have a very efficient and light weight antenna system to travel with. One that is efficient, easy to erect and light weight. Force 12 made such an antenna, the Sigma V that covers 20 through 10m including the WARC bands of 12 and 17 meters. You've heard the story of our Sigma V antenna from Samoa and how well it works. But what to use that will cover 40 and 30 meters? Force 1222 may have the answer here too. Pictured below is the Force 12 40XK vertical dipole fashioned after and on the same principal as the Sigma V antenna. It is a center fed



vertical dipole covering all ham bands from 40 meters through 10 meters and the WARC bands as well. Its efficiency is rated similar to the Sigma V at >90% on all bands. Unlike the Sigma it is not switchable and must be adjusted for each band. But taken with the Sigma V, it will be used to cover exclusively the 40m and 30m bands and it also will be a backup antenna for the other bands should the Sigma V face a disaster.

At Field Day this year WA8UWQ and I erected the antenna as shown in the picture and we adjusted it by the book for 30m. When we checked it on the antenna analyzer the swr was 1.2:1.0 at the desired frequency. It sure looks like a winner and this fall the antenna will be erected at K8AQM for a winter long test of its performance.

Since the antenna is quite simple in construction, K8AA is building a second one which will be used on 40 meters next

summer from somewhere in the Pacific. Both antennas are being modified to have no piece longer than 24 inches so it can be packed into the suit case with the Sigma V. Together with a bit of wire to make an 80 meter inverted L, we will cover 80-10m. The 40XK will be guyed with light string and if we can get it anywhere near water as we plan to then it should be quite an efficient and ear catching antenna. K8AA was able to make the entire antenna from scrap aluminum and the few other parts needed are on hand.

A later report will give you a better picture of the antenna at the K8AQM installation and hopefully some very good reports on its performance on 30 and 40 meters. The Sigma 40XK sells for \$289, weighs 14 pounds, is 15 feet 6 inches tall, handles 3 KW and has no traps nor radials. You can check the antenna out and read comments at the Force 12 web page at: <http://force12inc.com/sigma40XKinfo-001.htm>,

Thanks to Andy WA8UWQ for the construction help and photo while at Field Day this year.

73 es look for us in 2004
Ted, K8AQM

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know...

...K8AA has ordered a "BIG" antenna from Force 12?

...KC8LNR is thinking about a new call?

...there is still no 220 port on K8XXX?

...K8AQM has three DX-40s, 1 DX-20 and an HQ-110? He's nuts!

...the gang still meets Mondays and Wednesdays at the CAP building?

...a great antenna web site is at: <http://www.hamuniverse.com/ve3sqbprog.html>? Check it out!

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board met at the CAP building on July 4, 2003. The following were present: President Ginny W8TTX called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, also present were Andy WA8UWQ, Dick K8GX, Norm W8TTH, Ted K8AQM, and Mark NU8Z.

Discussion determined what old and new business needed to be presented at the club meeting. The board meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the CAP building on July 4, 2003 with 14 people present. Our Treasurer and Secretary were absent.

After the welcome and roll call there was mention of the minutes that were reported in the Tickler and the minutes were approved on a motion by Randy N4UUJ and seconded by Mark NU8Z. The treasurer's report was read and approved on a motion by Jack KC8A and seconded by Andy WA8UWQ.

Old business

Mention our new website w8tqe.com, the need of articles for the Tickler, a report by Dick K8GX on the Field Day event was given, and plans for the Adopt a Highway were discussed.

New business

It was determined that there is a need for new coax runs at the club station. Ted K8AQM was to contact Bruce KB8OXK in regard to a lift basket to get up the 6 meter antenna. The August meeting will be an ice cream social at the home of Andy WA8UWQ. Bring bowls, toppings, and chairs. BILL KA8ARK will present the September program and the topic will be ELTs. Andy WA8UWQ mentioned that the guest book is down on the website until he gets it fixed. We need help locating someone to sell coax and wire at our hamfest in September. If you know anyone please try and get them to come. The Wire Man (Joe) passed away this past March and he will be greatly missed. The program for July was presented by Ted K8AQM it was on the Dxepediton in South Georgia VP8GEO 2002. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jack KC8A and second by Andy WA8UWQ. Motion passed.

DL7UX, News from Berlin

Horst, DL7UX, a Dxer and long time friend of the Adrian Amateur Club has recently received the United States county Award # 3246 with 530 counties confirmed from his home station in Berlin, Germany. He worked the Michigan QSO party with 8 new counties and the Florida QSO party with 12 new counties. Horst looked for W8TQE and Lenawee county with no success. Horst and Hannelore plan a November visit with their daughter who lives in North Carolina. They have been hosted in past years by Jack, KC8A and Bob and Sally, KB8HW and WB8VBP.

Ed: Jack talks to Horst regularly and would love to have others join the chat. Contact Jack about schedules.



The New K8GX Mobile and Antenna

Check out Dick's new truck and mobile Hustler antenna. W8TTH does a great job of installing mobile mounts and has done Dick's and K8AQM's new Ford 150s. NU8Z reported Dick had the best mobile signal he's heard from our area on 10m. Dick runs the Hustler antennas and an Icom 706 plus his 2m and 440 radios.

News from W8BL

Al W8BL, has a long record in amateur radio and puts together his wonderful "Do You Remember" articles for us to reflect on. Al's latest involves AM broadcast radio station. As an eleven year old who got his start Dxing the AM bands, Al's remembrance brings to mind some of the stations I "logged" in my pre-ham days. Maybe you remember some of these too? ...ED.

Do You Remember?

The other day I found a list of AM broadcasting stations that was published in an issue of *Radio News* magazine in September of 1926. I thought it was quite interesting. The frequencies were listed in wavelengths. Here are a few of the old listings from way back in 1926.

OHIO		
<u>Call Letters</u>	<u>Meters</u>	<u>Power</u>
WABR Toledo	263	50 w.
WAIU Columbus	293.9	500w.
WEAO Columbus	293.9	500w.
WEAR Cleveland	389.4	750w.
WHK Cleveland	272.6	1 KW
WKRC Cincinnati	326	1 KW
WLW Harrison	422.3	5 KW
WSAI Mason	325.9	5 KW
WTAL Toledo	252	10 KW
WTAM Cleveland	389.4	3500 w.
MICHIGAN		
WAGM Royal Oak	225.4	50 w.
WCX Pontiac	516.9	5 KW
WGHP Detroit	270	1500 w.
WJBK Ypsilanti	233	10 w
WJR Pontiac	516.9	5 KW
WKAR East Lansing	285.5	1 KW
WOOD Grand Rapids	242	1 KW
WREO Lansing	285.5	500 w.
WWJ Detroit	352.7	1 KW

Frequency equals 300 divided by meters. You will notice that these stations that are still on the air today are not, for the most part, still on the same frequency. WCX was owned by the Detroit Free Press and shared time with WJR. After a short period of time they were closed down and WJR then had the frequency all to themselves. WWJ was owned by the Detroit News and featured numerous news broadcasts. Today they feature news 24 hours a day, although they are no longer owned by the Detroit News. Also in 1926, FM was unknown.

73, Al, W8BL

President

Virginia Schutte, **W8TTX**
w8ttx@yahoo.com

Vice President

Dick Densel, **K8GX**
k8gx@tc3net.com

Secretary

Bill Groover, **KA8ARK**
billgro@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Dave Larson, **K8AA**
k8aa@arrl.net

Executive Board

Neil Griffith, **KC8DAR**
njgriffith@dmci.net

Andrew Hubbell, **WA8UWQ**
wa8uwq@tc3net.com

Norman Schutte, **W8TTH**
w8tth@tc3net.com

Eric Smith, **K8JVV**
Kc8jvw@tc3net.com

Editor

Ted Rachwal, **K8AQM**
Tjrachwal@comcast.net

The Tickler is the official paper of the Adrian Amateur Radio Club in Adrian, MI. It is printed monthly and is distributed to members of the club, local disaster officials, local electronic outlets and other editors of ham radio newsletters. Articles about activities of members are solicited. Permission is granted to any other publication to reprint items appearing here, provided complete source credit is copied including previous print source. The club owns and operates repeaters W8TQE on 145.370, - 85.4 PL or 537 from your touch tone pad and 444.675, 123 pl.

Local Area 2 Meter Net and 10 Meter Chats

Sunday 9:00 p.m. The ARES Net on 145.370 - Ken, K8KIC-Net Control

Monday 10 Meter Local Chat at 9:00 p.m. on 28.495 +/- QRM

Tuesday and Thursday 10 Meter Local Chat 9:00 p.m. on 28.325 +/-QRM

Local Area Repeaters

W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan

W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan

N8QZO 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan

Local Area DX Packet Clusters

K8XXX 144.910, 441.150 Adrian, Michigan

K8XXX Telnet://12.245.236.250

Adrian ARC 30th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

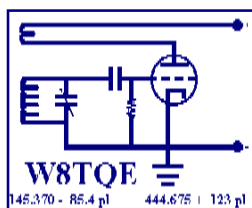
September 14, 2003

Hamfest Chair Eric, K8JVV kc8jvw@tc3net.com

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

www.w8tqe.com

adrianarc@mailman.qth.net



Adrian Amateur Radio Club
Box 26
Adrian, MI 49221
w8tqe@aix.cc



First Class