

# The Tickler

## *From the Prez.....*

Hi everyone. Hope you have all been able to tolerate all the snow and cold weather we are having so far this year. I am ready for Spring.

We are trying to get the Technician classes scheduled for this year. We will be doing it the same way as last year. Which is to hold the class on two consecutive Saturdays. We will be using the DVD program that we purchased last year. More information will be available next month.

Dave Pruett (K8CC) was at the club meeting and presented Ted (K8AQM) and the AARC Club with plaques for the Michigan QSO Party. Mark (NU8Z) accepted the plaque for the club. Everyone did an exceptional job making contacts. Don't forget even 1 or 2 contacts can make a difference in a tight contest, so always turn in your logs. This year the contest turned out to be wide open and we received over 1,000,000 points. Dave said the closest club to us received around 600,000??? points. The presentation was very special for the club and everyone ought to be proud to have been a part of the contest. I hope everyone gets that involved this year and maybe we can keep 1<sup>st</sup> place. I am sure Ted will have the pictures in "The Tickler" this month, but you really need to stop by the club and see the club's plaque in person. It is beautiful.

Mark (NU8Z) presented January's program where the topic of the night was "Ham Humor". Mark kept us all laughing with his recollection of ham radio trivia, events, and true stories of past experiences. Mark is a talented speaker and it is always a pleasure to hear him speak to the group. Great job Mark.

It is once again Hamfest season. Hazel Park Hamfest was on January 16<sup>th</sup>. It is one of the smaller hamfests, but still enjoyable to attend. In February, we have the Mansfield hamfest, but I have not checked on the date yet. In March we have the Marshall hamfest on March 19<sup>th</sup> and the TMRA hamfest on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Marshall and TMRA are both well worth attending for those of you who need that special piece of equipment or just miss all the activity of a hamfest. Hope to see you at all of them.

The AARC club website is [www.w8tqe.com](http://www.w8tqe.com). Bob (K2IBM) is our web manager and he is doing a fantastic job keeping it updated. All the past and current Ticklers are on the site as well as many pictures of the officers and other members participating in various club activities. If you have not visited lately or have never visited, please make an attempt to do so. You will be pleased with the work he had done for the club. Next time you see Bob, thank him for the great effort he puts forth for you.

I also, I can't say enough about the editor of "The Tickler", Ted (K8AQM). He is doing a great job with the publishing of our newsletter. Please keep Ted busy with new articles and pictures. If you don't he will have to make things up and he is real good at that also.

See you at the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

73,

Ginny W8TTX

## SUN BIRD SPECIAL

Hey, need a low profile HF antenna that really plays? Well, this one does plus when you're not using it for an antenna it is a good flag pole holder. Or you can use a garden ornament (egret) as is shown in the photo to conceal the base.

The antenna is a result of the need to setup and take down the unit easily, due to the no antenna rules where I live in Florida. The first antenna was assembled and tried out at my Michigan QTH. It was built using a 17 meter hamstick with short radials which loaded on both 17 m and 20 m using a manual tuner. Having said that I decided to find out if this "thing" really worked so I tuned it up on 17 m and listened for awhile. I then heard PA9MR calling CQ on 18.125 USB and returned his call. He responded giving me a 5-7 report. Then I turned up to 18.140, called CQ and AG4ZN Rich in Seabring, Florida responded with a 5-7 report. Both of these contacts were made with 90-95 watts! A few days later (10-13) I turned up on 20 m and checked into the Sun City Center net on 14.282 and received a 5-5 report from Lou. This time I was running 50 watts. In all cases I sent a 5-9 report as shown on my 450's meter. After having these results I packed up the antenna and took it to Florida and set it up there. Last year I used this antenna with a Kenwood 120 most of the season making 60%+ of the contacts with our Sunday morning net using this setup, the remainder on the club station. Also, I worked the Michigan QSO Party making 6 or 7 stations including contact with Brian KG8CO in 15 mins. (ask Brian how it was working). During the year I added 20m, 40m, and 80m Hamsticks to the 17m I brought down with me and they all work well except the 80m stick which I still do not have working. Any interest? Read on!

To duplicate this antenna setup is quite simple. Just follow the steps given here and look at the sketch tool.

1.0 Obtain a 4 ft. steel 3/8 in. dia. rod (Lowe's).

1.1 Grind a point on one end

1.2 Drive the rod in the ground leaving 16-18 inches standing.

2.0 Obtain a trunk mirror mount w/ 3/8 stud and a VHF fitting.

2.1 Remove and turn the clamp to the inside, add (2) SS washers to the bottom studs.

3.0 Cut (8) 10 ft. solid copper wires ( I used bare wire with no insulation).

3.1 Twist (4) wires together for 2 ins. on one end, now do this for the other (4) wires.

4.0 Place the mount on the rod and snug the top two bolts down.

4.1 Form a loop on the twisted end of the four wire assembly and place under a bottom nut and snug down.

4.2 Space radials out and use nails to hold them in place.

4.3 Repeat with the other four wire assemblies and tighten down all four bolts.

4.4 You may cover all the radials with bark or lay on ground. Also I used an electrical tie to keep the wires together at the base.

5.0 Install the antenna with the stinger length set as noted in the instructions.

Well there you are; one fully operational "Sun Bird Antenna". Have fun and if you can make it better or get the 80m stick to work let me know.

Have fun 73, Tom N8QEW



### Editor's note:

Tom sent a great drawing with detail and figures but this space was too small for much detail to show. If you would like a full size 8.5 x 11 I can email you the jpeg file or they will be copied and available at the club meeting in February.



## AARC Club Gossip! .....

### *Did you know that.....*

...K2IBM got a new FT-8800R dual bander for his truck from Santa?  
 ...N8QZO is working on getting the N8QZO Spider Cluster back on the air?  
 ...K8AQM found out mice do not like soy based cheese? They never touched his traps!  
 ...K8TLT won a certificate in the 2004 MIQP?  
 ...KC8A has established a link with DL7UX in Berlin via N8QZO's Echo Link?  
 ...NU8Z's "Ham Radio Humor" was a great success?  
 ...K8YZA would like more volunteers for the county emergency disaster team class?  
 ...The Adrian ARC had more than twice the members of the next best club in the 2004 MQP?  
 ...It's official, the Adrian ARC is the best club in Michigan ?  
 ...N8QEW and KS8I are now in Florida with K8NP travel around the south heading for Florida?  
 ...changing to Swiss cheese caught two mice in two days at K8AQM's shack?  
 ...WE8Z has bought a fifth wheel and next year will join the Sunday morning 20M net from afar?  
 ...K8AA made over 500 rtty QSOs last week and many were 80M DX rtty QSOs?  
 ...KG8CO and company placed fifth in the state during the MIQP last year?  
 ...there is such a thing as a "Hamvestite," according to NU8Z?  
 ...there are NO hamvestites in the Adrian ARC?  
 ...the Dayton people are giving us the run around again this year over our tickets and spot?  
 ...all this snowy weather is perfect for heading to the shack and tuning the bands?  
 ...K8GX won some lottery money?

## AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board met at the CAP building on Jan 7, 2005. Those present were: Ginny W8TTX, Dick K8SG, Larry K8LNR, Ted K8AQM, Norm W8TTH, Dave K8AA, Art KC8GTA, Bob K2IBM and Bill KA8ARK. The Financial report presented by Dave K8AA showed a Balance of \$4,875.99. We discussed how we could show our thanks to the Madison fire dept for use of their truck and personnel in our antenna work. We will check with the membership for their ideas. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the CAP building beginning at 7:30 pm with 28 persons present. Roll call was by callsign. The treasurers' report showed a balance of \$4,875.99, motion by Nick KC8ONZ second Jack KC8A. Motion passed. Minutes of the December were approved upon a motion by Bob K2IBM second by Bruce KB8OXX, motion passed. Both Bob K2IBM and Ted K8AQM were recognized for the jobs they are doing for the club. Bob for his work on the website and Ted for the great Tickler he puts out. Ken K8KIC motioned that the club show their appreciation to the Madison Fire Department for their work and equipment in helping replacing the antennas at the club station, perhaps by furnishing something for their Lounge, up to an amount of \$300. Second by Allen N8TIB. Motion passed. The board is trying to set a date for our next ham class. It was reported that there will be a hamfest at Flushing January 15 and Allen Park on January 29. A meeting was announced to be held in Lansing Jan 13 about Consumers Energy use of power line transmission of Internet. President Dave K8CC, director of Michigan QSO party presented first place Michigan multi op plaque to Ted K8AQM and Jeff N8CC. The high score club plaque was presented to The Adrian Amateur Radio Club. Mark NU8Z accepted for the Adrian Club. The Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. The program was presented by Mark NU8Z and was titled "Ham Humor".

Secretary Bill KA8ARK.



## It's Never Too Late To Enjoy Life!

Sometimes I get lucky about writing topics, this is one of those times. It's a pleasure to report to the club that Muriel Perkins KC8DAT was married last September to Roy Etter.

Muriel was a wonderful addition to our club and often could be heard on 2M talking with her brother down in Toledo. For quite sometime Muriel took the responsibility for bringing refreshments to our club meetings and I'm not sure which was the better, her cookies or her pleasant smile. Located on Budlong Street Muriel's roof-mounted vertical was a landmark for me and with her IC-706 she occasionally would check into the 10M SSB net.

And now Muriel is married and if pictures count then it sure looks to me that both she and Roy are happy and enjoying each other's company. Both Roy and Muriel attended high

school together (class of '41) and lead interesting and exciting lives through the years. It is interesting to note that Roy was involved with radio during WW II and I'm sure before too long Muriel will have him interested in amateur radio and we might get to meet Roy in one of our weekend class.

Congratulations Roy and Muriel and may you always stay happy! De The Adrian Amateur Radio Club

## 2004 AMATEUR RADIO SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST by K8YZA, Joe W. Pullen, Lenawee County & District 1 EC/RO

Twelve amateur radio operator-members of the Adrian Amateur Radio Club participated in the annual nation-wide Simulated Emergency Radio Test sponsored by the American Radio Relay League. The Lenawee county hams are part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service &/or the Radio Amateur Civilian Emergency Service. Dual membership in ARES and RACES is encouraged. The call letters of the hams are K8YZA, KI8I, K8TLT, KC8TUN, K8KIC, K2IBM, N4UUJ, WB8DUB, WD8BYO, W8LNR, W8RAY, WD8UIA, WD8USA.

The simulated emergency on Saturday, October 2, 2004 consisted of an impending weather emergency. The primary mission on this test was to determine the condition and communication needs for each Red Cross shelter in the county. Simulated communications were handled for 21 agencies, including state and county government, American Red Cross, National Weather Service, shelters, schools, and churches. In addition to the local phase, radio communications were also going on between Lenawee county and other counties, as well as the State of Michigan Emergency Operation Center and the National Weather Service at White Lake. Liaison with the National Traffic System was maintained for ten hours in addition to the on-going tactical communications conducted on behalf of the served agencies. The nets that Lenawee county worked with were the Michigan Amateur Communications System, Great Lakes Emergency Traffic Net, QMN – the oldest Morse code net in the nation, and the State of Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service Corps. The liaison stations were K8KIC, K8TLT, K8YZA, and WD8USA.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club repeater, W8TQE, was used. This repeater operates on emergency power when commercial power is not available. The batteries are adequate for at least an hour of almost constant communications, but after a while the club generator has to be physically taken to the site for adequate power.

The local communities that were contacted include Onsted, Sand Creek, Tecumseh, Addison, Adrian, Britton, Macon, Deerfield, Hudson, and Madison Township.



## Adrian ARC is the Top Club in Michigan!

It's really official now, the Adrian ARC received "top honors" as the winning club in the 2004 Michigan QSO Party! K8CC Dave Pruett, the chairman of the MIQP, came to our club meeting last month and presented the trophy to the club for the top scoring club in Michigan. In 2002 we were second place, in 2003 we were second place but through a great effort in 2004 by all the club members and especially by NU8Z for heading up the effort, we are number one in 2004. Not only did we have the high score as a club, we set a new all time record with over 1,000,000 points! Below K8CC is presenting the award to the membership as our officers look on and NU8Z accepts the award on behalf of the club.



Our club scored over 1,000,000 points and broke the old record of 680,000 point. K8CC commended the club for having twice the number of entries as the next highest club, a true club effort. The award is now hanging in the club station for all to see. Please stop in at the next meeting and check this beautiful plaque out.

But there were more laurels to be given to the Adrian ARC. A plaque is given to the top scoring multi-op effort in the state. This award is the one the Adrian ARC sponsors and this year was one by the K8AQM multi-op team including K8AQM, N8CC, W8IQ and ex-WB8LKL operating from "The White Rat". Accepting the award from K8CC are K8AQM and N8CC Jeff Benson, two Adrian ARC members.



K8CC mentioned the closeness of the race between K8AQM and K8AA, only 17 or so QSOs difference. Of the top five multi-op stations in the state three were from the Adrian ARC: K8AQM number one, K8AA number two and KG8CO number five.

K8TLT also received an award for his score in the "High Power" category. This was quite a surprise for Cletus.

The question is, "Can we top this Herculean effort in 2006?" What does NU8Z have up his sleeve for us this April?

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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  
Tuesday 10 Meter CW Local Chat at 8:00 p.m. on 28.050 +/- QRM  
Tuesday and Thursday 10 Meter Local Chat 9:00 p.m. on 28.325 +/-QRM

**Local Area Repeaters**

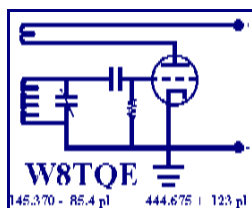
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan  
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan  
N8QZO 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan  
N8QZO has access to Echo Link

**Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show**

September 18, 2005  
Hamfest Chair Eric, K8JVV [k8jvw@arrl.net](mailto:k8jvw@arrl.net)

**AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector**

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**First Class**