

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hello everyone. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year's Day this year. This year is going to be a good one for everyone. However, thanks to Mother Nature we did get some snow for the festivities. Hopefully, it won't last too long.

I didn't get much time off from work this year for the holidays, but I did have a few days to spend with Norm and the girls. We still managed to have a great Christmas and Happy New Year's Day.

This year our club meeting will be on January 6th. We should have a good time at the meeting and Ted (K8AQM) advises a special event will take place at the meeting (Michigan QSO Style). We will also will have a program entitled "Ham Humor", which will be presented by Mark (NU8Z). As the title suggests, Mark will dazzle us with his many talents and true life stories. All the way around it will be a great night to start our new year together as a club. You won't want to miss it. As always I enjoy all the club members. You each bring a special part of yourselves to the club.

There is also a special article this month in The Tickler about Muriel (KC8DAT) Perkins Etter. It is a very touching story. I would like to thank Jackie (WA8AWZ) for sharing the articles with us. I would like to congratulate the new couple on their wedding and hope their years together will be wonderful. I met with Muriel a few days ago and she is an extraordinary person. She once again helped me out as always.

That is all I have for now. Hope to see you at the meeting.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

Old Gear, Old Dreams, New Beginnings

Is this a photo from the mid or late fifties? No, this is the “boat anchor” shack at K8AQM’s place. As you look across the top shelf from left to right, a Collins 51j4 general coverage receiver, a Collins KWS-1 transmitter (and yes the “KW” stands for kilowatt). The lower shelf has a Hallicrafters HT-37 transmitter and beside it is a Collins 75A-4 amateur band only receiver. The KWS-1 needs a power supply yet but the rest of the gear is fully functional. Barely seen on the lower level is a K-2 transceiver.



So why the boat anchors that require tubes, more electricity at lethal voltages and are minus some of the fine features of today’s transceivers? Of course there is the issue of space too but that’s another argument in itself. I have been a ham for 44 years, worked lots of DX, been DX, contested with winning teams, have walls adorned with plaques and certificates, made DXCC with QRP and had the pleasure of building a pretty good multiop contest station; I have done many things. But I never owned the equipment of my earliest dreams in amateur radio. I dreamed of Collins gear but was never able to hope to own such gear. Now I do and I want to operate them

and have the experience of living my dreams. Most of the gear is no better than my Elercraft K-2 but I didn’t have to dream about owning a K-2, I just went out and bought it.

I’m inspired again to go down into the shack and rag crew on 40M. I tune around 20M and work some DX with the old gear. I contested some this past fall with the old gear and have about 40 states in the log and 48 countries worked. I don’t advise everyone to get into boat anchors, it’s just something I wanted to “have” and to operate. Amateur radio is my hobby, it’s what I do to relax and the operation of tube gear for me is very relaxing. If you’d like to experience what radio was like in the 50s and the early 60s then come on over and spin the knobs and smell the tubes!

The Collins 51j4 Receiver



The latest addition to the “boat anchor” shack is the general coverage 51j4 receiver. It was “suppose to be” in working order when purchased but by the time it arrived from the west coast it no longer worked! Thanks to the great effort of WB8JKR and some JB Weld the broken phenolic board was “repaired” and the



AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that.....

...K8AQM bought his old Alpha 76 back from K8AA?
 ...K8CC, chairman of the Michigan QSO Party, will present our club a trophy at our meeting this month?
 ...KC8A is interested in "Echo Link" to reach his friends in Germany? Can anyone advise Jack on the procedures?
 ...NU8Z, K8KS and the rest of the N8CC crew blasted their old 160M recorded in the last ARRL 160M contest?
 ...it took nine guys, most Extra Class, to build a fan dipole for 80M and 40M?
 ...NU8Z has a new scanner from Santa? Articles coming for *The Tickler* I'm sure.
 ...W8CFP got no radio toys for Christmas?
 ...K8AA got no radio toys for Christmas?
 ...K8GX got no radio toys for Christmas?
 ...K8KIC got no radio toys for Christmas?
 ...W8TTH got no radio toys for Christmas?
 ...these guys got no radio toys for Christmas because they were mean to K8AQM all year!
 ...K8TLT got a third place certificate "High Power" for the Michigan QSO Party?
 ...K8KIC and K8AQM had a cw QSO in Straight Key Night on New Year's Eve?
 ...WB8JKR was on for SKN?
 ...K2IBM has to do *The Tickler* by mid January this month so get your articles in early?
 ...Kirk Small, soon to be ham in Tecumseh, has a TS-940? Good luck Kirk!
 ...N8CC is now working on a scheme to have a gain antenna on 160M? Going to rotate it Jeff?
 ...there will be rule changes for the 2005 Michigan QSO Party?
 ...we still need to properly thank the Madison Fire Department for their help?
 ... it might be time to get W8TQE club station activated?
 ...we need to push our forth coming tech class to gain new hams?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board, met on Dec 3, 2004 at the Civil Air Patrol building beginning at 7:00 pm. The following persons were present. President Ginny W8TTX, Dick K8GX, Larry K8LNR, Norm W8TTH, Dave K8AA, Art KC8GTW, Bob K2IBM, Bill KA8ARK and Neil KC8DAR. The treasurer's report by Dave K8AA showed a balance of \$4,942.91. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

The Club meeting began at 7:30 with 40 persons present. The meeting began with rollcall by call sign. The club minutes were accepted as printed in the Tickler upon a motion by Bob K2IBM second by Paul KC8KZG motion passed. The treasurer's report by Dave KA8AA showed a balance of \$4,942.91 and was accepted upon a motion by Harold WA8QPS second by Joe K8YZA. Motion passed. Club members were asked to think of a way to show our appreciation to the Madison Fire Department for use of their bucket truck in our antenna work. The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Joe K8YZA second by Harold WA8QPS. Tonights program was put on by NOAA's National Weather Service, on Winter Storms.

Question: How Many Adrian ARC Guys Does It Take To Make A Dipole?

And the answer is Nine! Yup, it took nine of us to successfully build a dipole for Kirk Small. A bunch of us meet on Monday nights out at the CAP building for a general gab secession and to pick on poor K8AQM (that's why those guys got no radio toys for Christmas!). Our latest addition is Kirk Small who is studying for his license and wants to get on the HF bands and rag chew. Kirk has already purchased a Kenwood TS-940 and done some listening on the bands. He wanted to construct a dipole that would be already for transmitting when he receives his ticket and asked "us" for some help in constructing one. W8TTH offered to construct a set of insulators for him and "we" decided he needed a "fan" dipole for 80M and 40M. Kirk came armed with 500 feet of wire and coax and W8TTH brought the insulators. K8KIC, K8GX, NU8Z and K8AQM provided the math for measurements and with the help of W8TTH's measuring device, we lopped off enough wire for the four segments. "Once a line



man, always a line man" WA8QPS, stripped all the ends and had them ready for soldering. In case you're wondering what roll K8AA played, why supervisor of course! K8AA kept a critical eye on all aspects of the antenna's construction and explained what was happening to a bedazzled Kirk. It was in the coiling up of the elements that K8AA stepped forward to point out to NU8Z that his efforts were slack and not up to the necessary standards. NU8Z seemed to be "all thumbs" when it came to coiling the segments and as K8GX shook his head in dismay and W8TTH roared with his baritone laugh, good friend K8AQM came to NU8Z's rescue. WA8QPS with a lineman's all-knowing look

smiled at a bewildered Kirk and assured him all was well. W8TTH whizzed through the soldering and Kirk was presented with a neatly coiled, perfectly soldered and accurately measured 80-40M fan dipole.

But the party wasn't over yet! To celebrate the completion of this difficult task, a delicious cheese cake was served up to all and a five pound wheel of baby Swiss cheese was served. After much ooohing and ahhhing the merits of various forms of the dipole were discussed a decision was made where and when we would have lunch on Friday.

"Does the dipole work?" you ask. Dunno, Kirk has to install it so then perhaps the nine of us will show-up at his place and tune the segments. Kirk bought some Radio Shack RG-8 but after suffering abuse from those present on the merits, or lack of, of Radio Shack coax he is ordering some mil-spec RG 8x.

So if you counted calls you're wondering who the "number nine" is....N8QEW! N8QEW came late and at first amazed at all the confusion, he soon joined in as a "second in command" to K8AA. N8QEW has left now for Florida but has promised to send pictures of his new shack he's building in his Florida home.

K8XXX @ N8CC's For 160M

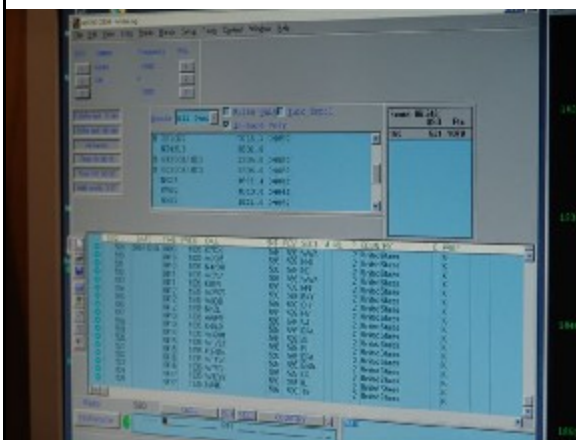
Annually a group of Adrian ARC make the trek to N8CC's shack to work the 160M contests as K8XXX. In December we gathered for the ARRL CW 160M Contest. As of last year K8XXX holds the record for the most QSOs on 160 meters from the mid-west. We were determined to break our last year's record this year. Here you see ND5S at the controls of K8XXX and logging a QSO in the Writelog program which we use for contesting.



The contest did not start out smoothly for us. Everything sounded great at our end but little did we know that whenever we used our paddle and keyer we were sending garbage! Here you see NU8Z, ND5S and K8KS trying to figure out what's going on with our signal. When we used the computer keyboard everything was fine but apparently the paddle and keyer when used was unreadable although it sounded perfect to us in the shack! Thanks to K8JJC, Paul, who is a local ham we discovered the problem and switched exclusively to sending cw with the keyboard. The QSO began to pile in and can be seen in this shot of what our computer screen looks like when we're logging. The long



column is our log and the shorter center column is the packet window showing the latest spots sent in. The bottom line is where we log the current station being worked. It's a pleasure to use the computer program for logging and Writelog is one of the more popular logging contest programs. This is same program used by K8AA, K8AQM and NU8Z in their shacks at home.



We crushed our previous year record setting score but word has it operators at the WB9Z super station in Illinois beat even our new record score! When the logs are checked we'll see who stands where but ND5S has studied our operation and plans are in the works to make us more effective next year! "We will improve!" says Ron.

But one thing that will not change although it might improve, is the

great time we have at N8CC's. Here are from left to right, ND5S, K8AQM, N8CC and K8KS enjoying snacks and rag chewing. NU8Z must have been in running the pile-ups.



Avery special thanks to Paul K8JJC who took these pictures, brought his dog "Bonzo" to the shack.



Watch for us in the next 160 contest at the end of January!

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@arri.net

Executive Board

Neil Griffith, **KC8DAR**

njgriffith@dmci.net

Art Wheeler, **KC8GTA**

wheelie@voyager.net

Norman Schutte, **W8TTH**

w8tth@tc3net.com

Larry Lacy, **W8LNR**

W8LNR@aol.com

Editor Ted Rachwal
K8AQM

K8AQM@arri.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

Adrian ARC 31th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

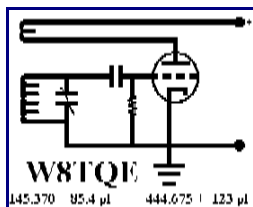
September 18, 2005

Hamfest Chair Eric, K8JVV k8jvw@arri.net

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

www.w8tqe.com

adrianarc@mailman.qth.net



Adrian Amateur Radio Club
Box 26
Adrian, MI 49221



First Class