



The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone!

I hope everyone is revved up for summer. It should be getting warmer soon I hope.

There weren't as many spaces occupied at the Dayton Hamvention this year in the flea market or the Arena. However, there were still many deals to be had and most of the stuff people took to sell went pretty fast. Those of us that went to Dayton had a great time. The weather held out fairly well, but the best day of the three was of course Saturday. It was warm and the sun shown down upon us and I managed to get a burn on only one side of my body, because I didn't stay in the shade of the tarp. I was having so much fun, I didn't even realize I was burnt until later in the evening when I couldn't touch my arm against anything without experiencing shrilling pain. We enjoyed our evening meals as a group. Some of us liked the Sake restaurant (Japanese cuisine) that we visited last year thanks to Ted (K8AQM) and we returned on Saturday night this year. The food was great and so was the sake. We also visited several other restaurants during our stay including Bob Evans, Lone Star, and the Outback Steakhouse. You folks that don't go to Dayton are really missing out on some good quality time. What else could you ask for when you are surrounded by good friends and good food? The silver bullet didn't go with us this year. We used Gary's (W8CFP's) motorcycle trailer. It held everyone's sale merchandise on the way down and all their treasurers on the way back. Norm (W8TTH) said it pulled like a gem. I think everyone went home happy with the purchases they made. Dayton is done for another year, but we can plan for next year.

Don't forget to visit the Chelsea and Monroe hamfests this month. Last year we Breezeshooters Hamfest in Butler, Pennsylvania, but this year we will be going to Chelsea. Butler, Pennsylvania is a long trip for just a weekend.

Once again, I would like to remind everyone that Ted (K8AQM) always needs good articles and pictures to put into The Tickler and I know Bob (K2IBM) would like to add anything you would like to the website. I can't praise these gentlemen enough for the great work they do with newsletter and the website. I really appreciate them and I hope you all do too.

Ted (K8AQM) is officially retired when school gets out this year and I know he is excited about that and who wouldn't be. I believe Denny (WE8Z) is also close to retiring. They are lucky guys, but I am sure they will stay busy. They will be so busy; they won't even know how they had enough time in the day to work before they retired.

I would like to congratulate all the students who are graduating this year from school or college. May their dreams and adventures all come true.

That is all I have for now, see you all at the meeting. 73s,
Ginny W8TTX

CW Is Not Dead!

By K8AQM

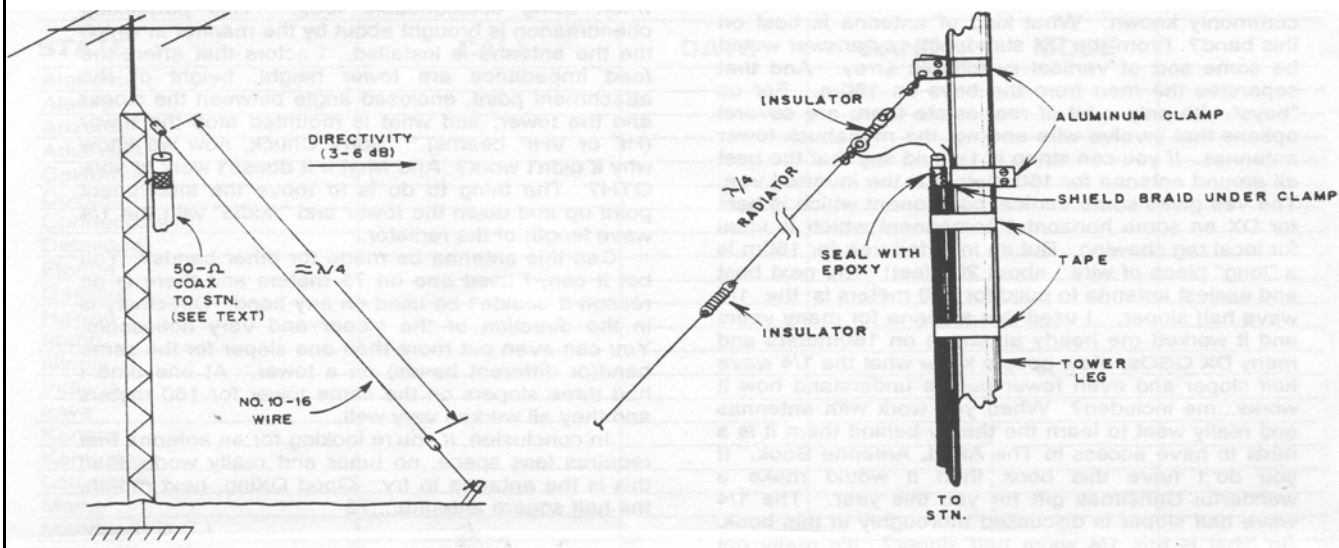
While at Dayton this year I decided to join the "Fists CW Club". Fists is a club formed for the further use of CW, engender friendships among members and encourage newcomers to use code. As most of you know my preferred mode of operation is CW. I enjoy cw contesting, chasing DX via cw and rag chewing on CW. I'm no K8KIC with a paddle but I can cruise along and even manage to make only a few mistakes in my sending. The newsletter from Fists is called, "The Keynote" (get it, Key....note) and it's pretty darn good with articles by members, awards earned within and sponsored by the club, articles on operation, equipment and the upcoming operating events.

With this new energized longing for CW I thought I'd have some fun my last weeks as a teacher and give my fifth graders a crash course in amateur radio including CW. We watched the video of "The Amazing World of Amateur Radio" and I introduced them to CW with the groups I use in teaching someone CW. I'm happy to say they were really excited with CW and nearly all of them caught on very quickly. They are so excited about the CW they want me to spend time each day of the remaining week of school with a CW practice secession. I'm looking forward to seeing how well they'll do and will report on it next month. CW may not be dead yet!

The Season for Antennas

This is the time for getting those antenna in the air and those in the air repaired! It doesn't have to be just hf antennas, those vhf and uhf antennas need to be put up now! The W8TQE station needs some antenna work and we still have to put the CAP antenna system for hf together. K8AA has some antenna repair work on his yagis and a tower to erect for 160M. W8TTH, K8GX and K8AQM have an antenna and tower to remove at WA8UWQ's place. Of course W8LNR needs to get his tower up and TH-6. K8ADM needs to increase his tower, mount his tribander and get the packet node back on this summer. N8CC is putting together a killer station and will raise two 20 M yagis, a pair of 15 M yagis and connect some coax to that 4 element 40M yagi at 200 feet! K8AQM has about a dozen antenna projects and too numerous to mention! Maybe we can get NU8Z to give us an article and diagram of his killer 80 M antennas for next month's paper?

For now here is a repeat of an antenna article and the antenna really works really works! This is



AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that.....

...the 2nd annual Pre-Dayton Hamfest was another success?
 ...nearly all of WA8UWQ's equipment has been sold?
 ...there is no more N8QZO? He is now K8ADM...nice call Al!
 ...K8AA was waiting to see the "next generation" of ElcraCraft transceivers...but it's not out yet?
 ...there is no Field Day activity scheduled for the Adrian ARC?
 ...NU8Z sold his DX-70TH and now has the new Kenwood TS-817 (*I think that's the number...ed*)?
 ...K8AQM went nuts and bought "another" Collins Gold Dust twins set?
 ...W8LNR bought a new "high speed" computer at Dayton?
 ...W8TTH bought a new "high speed" computer at Dayton?
 ...K8AQM bought a "medium speed" computer at Dayton?
 ...the Dayton gang sold nearly everything we took to Dayton?
 ...the trailer of W8CFP's pulled great behind W8TTH's truck?
 ...the weather was actually pretty good at Dayton for a change?
 ...WB8ATA was at Dayton and stopped by for a long visit?
 ...K8KS is nearly as famous in the 6 Meter world as he is in the medical field?
 ...W8LNR can eat with only one chop stick? (Good story there folks!)
 ...NU8Z tried to see if his head was stronger than W8CFP's trailer? Ouch!
 ...WE8Z actually came back with less gear than he took down?
 ...K8AQM sent five pieces of Collins gear off to W3HM for rebuilds and restoration?
 ...the next Adopt-A-Highway Program pickup date is July 9th.
 ...WE8Z retires this summer?
 ...N8CC has installed the first of his Hygain 204 yagis?
 ...several club members will QSY for Field Day to N8CC's to run K8XXX multi and QRO?
 ...Dayton crowds were down about 25%?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio board met on May 6, 2005 at the CAP building. President Ginny W8TTX called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following persons were present. President Ginny W8TTX, Larry W8LNR, Dave K8AA, Art KC8GTA, Ted K8AQM, Bill KA8ARK, Bob K2IBM, Brian KG8CO. The Financial statement showed a balance of \$3670.59. The board discussed Dayton tickets, Hamfest & Field Day. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The Adrian Amateur radio club met at the CAP building at 7:00 pm with 23 persons present. The Treasurer's report by Dave K8AA showed a balance of \$3670.59 motion by Harold W8QPS to accept the report, second by Bob K2IBM, motion passed. The Minutes as published in the Tickler were accepted upon a motion Ken K8KIC second by Joe K8YZA, motion passed. The Pre-Dayton hamfest will be held Saturday May 7 at the CAP building. Field day?? Any body interested in heading up the activity see Ginny W8TTX. Brian KG8CO will present a program on his recent trip to England at a future meeting. A new member Caleb KC8ZW was introduced to the club. Motion to adjourn Alan N8TIB second by Harold WA8QPS motion passed. Secretary Bill KA8ARK.

INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

by Joe W. Pullen, K8YZA

With material extracted from ARRL Public Service Communication Manual

What is a Communication Emergency ?

A communication emergency exists when a critical communication system failure puts the public at risk. A variety of circumstances can overload or damage critical day-to-day communication systems. It could be a storm that knocks down telephone lines or radio towers, a massive increase in the use of a communication system that causes it to become overloaded, or the failure of a key component in a system that has widespread consequences. Examples are easily found. Some emergency operations can occur in areas without any existing communication systems, such as backcountry searches or fires.

What makes a good emcomm volunteer ?

Emcomm volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds & with a range of skills & experience. The common attributes that all effective volunteers share are a desire to help others without personal gain of any kind, the ability to work as a member of a team, & to take direction from others. Emcomm volunteers need to be able to think & act quickly, under the pressure & stress of an emergency.

How do you fit in ?

Amateur Radio operators have been a communication resource in emergency situations ever since there has been radio. Someone once described them as "communication commandos." To the agencies you serve, you are their immediately available communication experts. Amateurs have the equipment, the skills, & the frequencies necessary to create expedient emergency communication networks under poor conditions. They are licensed & pre-authorized for national & international communication. Hams have the ability to rapidly enlarge their communication capacity to meet growing needs in an emergency. Many of the skills are the same ones you use in everyday activities. However, just having radios, frequencies, & basic radio skills is not enough. Without specific emergency communication skills, you can easily become part of the problem rather than part of the solution. As you might expect, technical & operating skills are critical. Just as important, though, is your ability to function as a team player within your own organization, & the organization you are serving.

What you are not

As important as what you are, is what you are not. There are limits to your responsibilities as an emergency communicator, & it is important to know where to draw the line.

You Are not a "first responder." You have no authority. You cannot do it all. But you can lend a hand to fill an urgent need when you are qualified to do so, or perform other jobs for the served agency of which communication is an integral part, & for which you are trained & capable. You are not in charge. The agency tells you what they need, and you do your best to comply.

"Day-to Day" Versus "Emergency" Communication.

In your daily ham radio life, there is no pressure to get any particular message through. You do things at your leisure, & no one's life depends upon you. In an emergency all that changes. Here are some differences you may see:

Emergency communication involves both amateurs & non-amateurs. Emergency operations happen in real time. Emergency communicators are often dealing with several continuous nets simultaneously to pass critical messages within a limited timeframe. Emergency communicators are often asked to organize & coordinate field operations with little or no warning. Emergency communicators may need to interact with several key organizations simultaneously. Emergency stations must be portable & able to be set up & operational in a very short time. Emergency communicators need to contact specific stations quickly to pass important messages.

The Missions

The job you are asked to do will vary with the specific agency you serve. In any widespread disaster, hams could be assisting many agencies including American Red Cross, state or local emergency management, hospitals, DNR, Forest Service, Law enforcement, Search & Rescue operations, National Weather Service, & others.

Communicating - job #1

While you are proud of your skill as a radio operator, & the impressive equipment & systems you have in place, it is important to remember that your job is "communicating." If an agency asks us to deliver a long shelter supply list to headquarters, you should be prepared to use any means required - including the fax machine if it is still working. Our job is to get the message through, even if it means using smoke signals. Think about the best & fastest way to send it. If all you have is CB or Family Radio, use it. If an agency asks you to use their radio system, do it. Your operating & technical skills are just as important as your ham radio resources.

Anatomy of a communication emergency

In the earliest phases of many disasters, there is no need for emergency communication services. (An obvious exception would be a tornado or earthquake.) This phase might occur during a severe storm "watch" or "warning" period. You should use this time to monitor developments & prepare to deploy when & if a request for assistance comes. Some nets, such as the Hurricane Watch Net or SKYWARN, may be activated early in the storm watch or warning phases to provide the National Weather Service & other agencies with up-to-the-minute information.

Once a potential or actual need for more communication resources is identified, a served agency puts out the call for its volunteer communicator. In some areas, a "Rapid Response Team" (RRT) or similar small sub-group might deploy a minimal response in a very short time, to be backed up by a second, more robust response in an hour or two. A "resource" or "logistics" net might be set up to handle incoming communication volunteers & direct resources where they are needed most. Once operations begin, all kinds of things can happen. Communication assignments might include staffing a shelter to handle calls for information, supplies, & personnel, "shadowing": an official to be their communication link, gathering weather information, or collecting & transmitting damage reports. Nets will be set up, re-arranged, and dismantled as needs change.

Not long after the operation has ended, the emergency communication group should review the effectiveness of its response, either alone or with the served agency. Critiques, done properly, can greatly improve your organization's - & your - effectiveness.

Summary

Communication emergencies can result from a variety of situations, including storms, earthquakes, fires, & equipment damage or failure. Normal communication systems are rapidly overloaded by the increase in usage caused by an emergency, & most have little or no reserve capacity.

Amateur Radio operators are a national resource in a communication emergency, & your mission will vary with the agency you serve. Hams have the skills, equipment, & frequencies to rapidly expand the message carrying capacity of their networks. Specific emcomm skills are also required to meet the special needs of a communication emergency. Informal, conversational grapevines don't work in emergencies because they are inefficient & inaccurate. A communication emergency exists when a critical communication system fails & the public is put at risk. It is most important for an emcomm group to review the effectiveness of its response at the end of an emergency communication operation. Making demands on the agency being served is NOT a responsibility of emergency communicators. The function of a Rapid Response Team is to deploy a quick response in a very short time. The only reason Ham Radio is allowed & encouraged to exist is for the public service it can perform.

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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

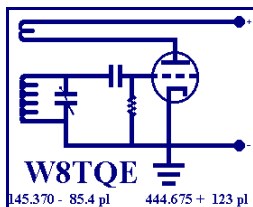
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September 18, 2005
Hamfest Chair Eric, K8JVVW k8jvw@arrrl.net

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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First Class