



The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hello everyone. The unusually warm weather was good while it lasted, but Winter has finally caught up with us. I already am ready for warmer weather.

I hope everyone's year has started out on the right track. It is a new year, time for new beginnings. Maybe you have been thinking about upgrading and this year it will happen. Get into those books and study those questions. Those of you that are Technicians or Advanced can now just take the Theory Exams and you will have more frequencies at your beckon call. For those of you that have not heard, the ARRL has dropped the Morse code requirements for all class levels. This should mean we will experience a high level of upgrades in the Amateur Radio hobby.

The Hazel Park Hamfest was this past weekend and overall I think it went fairly well. The vendors were down a little again this year, but there were lots of hams there. On February 11th there will be a hamfest in Mansfield, Ohio. It is a fairly large hamfest and usually takes up three buildings. It is a little far away for most people in our area, but Norm (W8TTH) and I enjoy going there. We spend the night there and make a mini vacation out of it. Of course, in March there will be the Marshall and TMRA Hamfests on the 17th and 18th of the month.

Once again I would like to thank our editor, Ted (K8AQM), and our computer guru, Bob (K2IBM), for the fine jobs they are doing with the newsletter and website. Please send articles and pictures to them both, so they can use them in their publications. If you need to contact them, they are only both a radio call, phone call, or email away.

That is all I have for now. Hope to see you at the meeting on January 29th.
73,
Ginny W8TTX

January Presentation

This month a video presentation entitled, "Getting Started in Dxing" will be shown. With the new phone band expansions and the dropping of the CW requirements, an expected flood of "new" operators will be on the bands. Many of you have heard NU8Z, K8AA, N8CC and K8AQM talking about working DX along with several others in the club. How is it done? Is it hard to do? Do I need those big antennas? Will I need to run a kilowatt? These questions and many many more will be answered in this very informative video. A large screen presentation will make it easy for everyone to see and hear some of America's foremost Dxers discuss "how to get started and to work those DX station." It is a 52 minute presentation.

Straight Key Night

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day is traditionally the ARRL's "Straight Key Night". Remember those straight keys that caused so much pain to the arm and how tired you got working QSOs as a Novice? This year saw K8KIC, K8GX, N8CC and K8AQM active "pounding brass", as they say. It's a fun activity and not a contest. For those of us lucky enough to have gone through those straight key days it's a real pleasure to recall the days of our beginning careers as amateurs. If you know the code it's something you should try "next year", you may decide you like it...or glad it's only one day a year!

Fitting Ham Radio into My Life

By KB8ECG

I took some time over the New Year to reflect on my radio activity. I had the goal of getting 700 q's by the end of the year and I made it! I then thought I would check to see how many I made in 2006. That lead to how many in 2005. Well, I just went ahead to calculated all the way back to the beginning in 1988! Here is what I came up with:

2006 884 Qs

2005 485 Qs

2004 435 Qs

2003 639 Qs

2002 484 Qs

2001 300 Qs

2000 82 Qs

1999 160 Qs (Emma, my daughter, was born in Sept.)

1998 35 Qs (My first Q for the year was the 1st of Aug!)

1997 30 Qs

1996 843 Qs (Isaac, my son, was born Dec 1995)

1995 1230 Qs (Rtty test at K8AQM's)

1994 925 Qs(Rtty test at K8AQM's)

1993 139 Qs

1992 32 Qs (First year I had the tower at the house)

1991 5 Qs

1990 10 Qs (Moved into the apartment in Saline)

1989 38 Qs

1988 33 Qs

1. Easy to tell how the life-altering events changed things

2. I like the current trend.

3. Interesting that 2006 is my third best year.

4. I made 202 Q's this weekend in the RTTY test. If I can work 200 Q's in 4 more test, I can break the 2006 total!

5. In my case that from 88-94 the ratio of ragchew verses contest is 90/10. Now from 94-present it's 5/95.

Let's hope 2007 will be great. 73, Dave

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Last Monday of every
month 7:30 p.m.

For information: www.w8tqe.com



Local Area Repeaters
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 - 12.3 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 - 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Proposed Club Sign

Here is the proposed club sign that will be attached to the tower and facing Cadmus Road as you drive by. It will be discussed further and must be approved by the AARC board, the CAP and the Airport Authority. If you have thoughts on the sign please discuss them with KB8NVL, K8AQM or any board member. Nothing has been firmly decided so make your ideas know.

Did you know that...

...KG8CO is now QRV on AM with QRO? His DX-60 and HA-10 Warrior amplifier work great!
 ...K8AA bought a 100 watt amp for his Flex Radio?
 ...W8TTH has his K2 built and running...very well too!
 ...WE8Z and K8NP are now in W4 land?
 ...NU8Z's Flex Radio presentation has been moved to **March**?
 ...KG8EF plans to rebuild his antenna farm in the spring? Who is KG8EF?
 ...K8AQM beat N8CC's QSOs and K8KIC beat K8AQM QSO totals in Straight Key Night?
 ...KG7FS has his new shack nearly completed?
 ...K8ADM is a "spelunker"? He just got back from a Kentucky "spelunk"!
 ...K8KIC, K8GX, K8AQM and KG7FS have been chasing the K1Y/ stations?
 ...KG7FS and K8AQM operated as K1Y/8 in the Straight Key Century Club Celebration?
 ...KT8X and K8AQM presented the Samoan Experience at UM radio club? Next, MSU radio club!
 ...K2IBM was hiking in Costa Rico?
 ...KB8ECG is spending more time at his radio these days? Check out Dave's thoughts on operating time.

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio club Board met on December 26, 2006 at the CAP Building. The following officers and board members were present; President, Ginny W8TTX, VP Marjie KB8TMM, Larry W8LNR, Norm W8TTH, Dick K8GX, Mark NU8Z, Dave K8AA. Discussed was the Dayton Ham-fest and the fact that our spaces are no longer available do to a realignment of outside spaces. Mark to contact those in charge to see where our new spaces will be for 2007. Classes for future Techs, but no dates set due to the new rules. Board adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the CAP building and was called to order by President, Ginny-W8TTX with twenty six present including one guest. Roll call was by callsign. The minutes of the November meeting were approved on a motion by Bob K2IBM, 2nd by Harold WA8QPS. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Ted K8AQM, 2nd by Dave KC8TQB. Ted gave a brief report from the sign committee, they do have a sign maker but have not worked out any further details, more to come. Mark NU8Z brought up the question of the Club's liability insurance and wanted input from the membership on why we needed to carry it. The cost for the Club is around \$500 a year, which is expensive for the money we have coming in. There was some input that we really needed it mostly for the Swap, and maybe other events such as Field Day. Mark Nu8Z is to investigate any alternatives we have to carry this liability insurance. Cletus K8TLT, advised the membership that he knew of a tower incase anyone needed one, it needs to be taken down, but is free to anyone that may want it. They are to contact him about this. Joe K8YZA talked about FEMA classes and to let all who have not taken the FEMA tests that Jim our local EC will come to give classes. He also reported that Gerry K8YCA had been hospitalized with a heart attack but now has returned home. APRIL 30th has been set for Skywarn class.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Dick, K8GX who donated his winnings back to the Repeater Fund.

Ted KA8QM presented a very interesting program on the BC-610 Hallicrafter Radio (a real antique now).

Alan, N8TIB bid everyone a farewell, after paying his dues for ten years, as he is moving to Nevada due to his job. He thanked all who had worked with and helped him over the years he as been a member.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Phil K8HCL, 2nd by Alan N8TIB.
 Marjie, KB8TMM Acting Secretary

N8CC's "Knock-off" Sigma V



N8CC is amazing. You all have been presented with K8AA, W8IQ and my experience with the Force 12 Sigma V antenna. You know, the nine foot tall five-band antenna we use with such great success on our Dxpeditons. Anyway, after the Samoan trip this past summer Jeff N8CC decided he could build a knock-off version of the Sigma. Thanks to the loan of K8AA's Sigma (after much whining by Dave) Jeff has built his own version of the Sigma V. To the left is the finished product. Jeff's version is sturdier than Force 12's but dimensionally the same. The second picture clearly show Jeff's loading coils used and the relays which change bands remotely from the shack. The swr on the five bands is well below 2:1 and Jeff's model includes 100 feet of switching cable while Force 12's comes with only 50 feet.

As many of know, Jeff has EXCELLENT antennas for all bands so I'm the lucky one that gets to "field test" this knock-off Sigma. I have the antenna mounted near the trailer and will be "testing" the antenna's performance throughout the winter DX season. I'll report on it's performance in a later issue here. My addition to the project has been to provide a "weather-proof cover" for the coils and relays.

If this antenna comes anywhere near the Force 12 Sigma performance it'll be a great antenna and a super addition to the traveling crew for Dxpeditons. Once again Jeff has shown his talents in amateur radio. Well done Jeff!

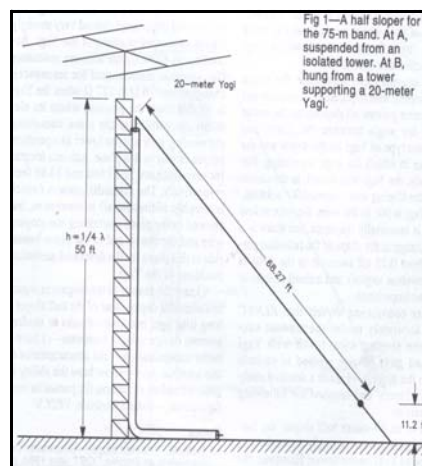
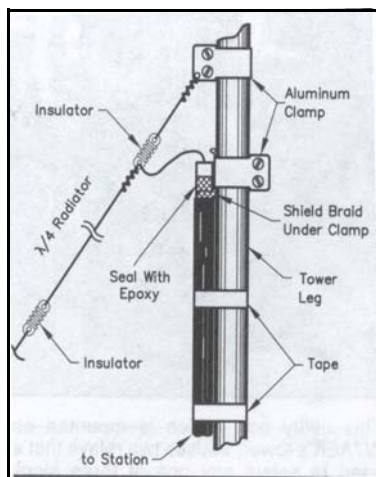
Ancient History?



Who is this ham? No it's not K8AQM at an earlier date and no it's not K8AA today! It's Rich KG7FS and the picture dates back to 1989 when Rich was living in Oregon! Hmm, I think I see the rig he is still using today, a TS-520 or 820 and note the IC-2AT sitting there next to the hf rig. An old Heathkit AM-1 swr bridge is in use and the wall is covered with QSL cards...some of them JA's which is easy from the west coast but a bit more difficult from here. The photo was taken by his son. Gee Rich, was this in the days before color photography and what has happened to the op today? Hihi!

The 1/4 wave SloperAntenna

The quarter wave sloper has been around for quite awhile. I use to have four 1/4 slopers up for my 160m antennas. Recently I decided to reinstall slopers for one of the stations here so I could reduce the amount of wire hanging in the yard. Here's the basic idea how the 1/4 wave sloper is made. It seems to out perform my 80m dipole in tests during QSOs and is quieter on receive. It saves room and is easy to install. Directivity appears to be omni-directional de K8AQM

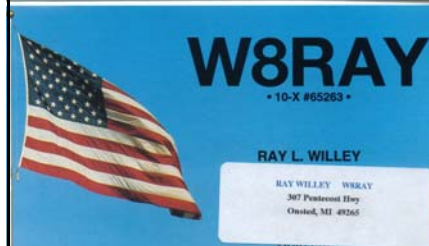
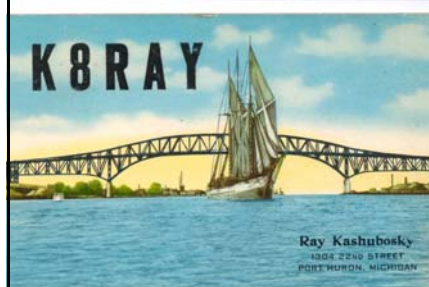


Rebuild and Restoration of a Classic

I'm into old tube radios and here is one of the classics, the Collins 75A-4. W8ZJE had one of these when they were new back in the 50's and as a new Novice in the 60's I dreamed of owning one. Today I do and not only to I own one but I owe a fully restored and rebuilt 75A-4 (serially # 83). The "guru" of restoration and rebuild of these radios is Howard Mills W3HM. Two years ago at Dayton I took five pieces of Collins gear there to have him restore and rebuild them. I now have a restored KWS-1 transmitter and my 75A-4. I plan to have them running and making QSOs very soon (the KWS-1 is a 1KW transmitter) on CW, SSB and AM. Chasing DX? Of course! Next goal will be DXCC using this gear and a tribander and wires.

The rigs are beautiful and will be gently treated. It sure

wasn't cheap and it took a long time to get them back (still have those three other pieces with W3HM) but then it's been a dream for the 46 years of my ham radio career! Hope to have a QSO with you using the classic gear!



Old QSLs and Unique Calls/Cards

Now these aren't exactly old QSLs...one is...but they certainly are "unique". How often have we been wanting to work "the other guy" with the same suffix as our call? I have only worked one "AQM" before and that was KA1AQM who then changed his call on an upgrade. Gee, I hope he didn't do it because of working me? Oh well, back to these "unique" cards.

Of course you know our own W8RAY, Ray but what's unusual about the other two RAY stations here is they both come/come from Port Huron, MI. I say "come/come" because K8RAY no longer lives there and N8RAY does but never knew K8RAY! Both are named Ray.

This is the truly amazing part, K8RAY got KN8RAY as a Novice merely by chance and his name is RAY! Talk about winning the lottery! And to add to the story, K8RAY was the first ham I ever met and was my Elmer, he gave me my Novice test! I "discovered" ham radio when he came through my 5 tube AM radio as RFI and mentioned his address for a QSL so I tracked him down...I was 12 at the time.

N8RAY was a high school buddy I didn't know well but now is the "go to guy" for KG8CO and I operating from the lightship Huron (K8HLM). Ray is now a good friend and lives in my hometown Port Huron. K8RAY lives in Manchester and I see him at hamfests. It's a small world! You may work your suffix someday!

President

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

Vice President

Marge Willey, **KB8TMM**
maggie214@frontiernet.net

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Mark Hinkleman, **NU8Z**
Cqnu8z@comcast.net

Executive Board

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

Dick Denzel, **K8GX**
K8gx@tc3net.net

Norman Schutte, **W8TTH**
Norm@normsfab.com

Larry Lacy, **W8LNR**
W8LNR@aol.com

Editor Ted Rachwal
K8AQM
K8AQM@arrrl.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
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

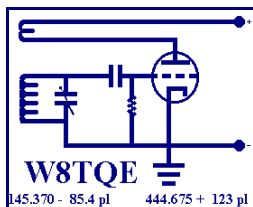
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September 16, 2007
Hamfest Chair Ray, W8RAY Marge, KB8TMM

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