

# The Tickler

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

Hi everyone. The weather is changing daily and one of these days it will actually feel like spring believe it or not. Here in Michigan we all should know by now if you don't like the weather wait a minute. Things are always changing in our beautiful state. That must be one of the many reasons we live here.

There were a couple of hamfests that took place this month that many of you probably attended and if you didn't you missed a good time. Marshall hamfest was held on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and the TMRA hamfest was held on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Both were good shows, but it was evident that attendance of vendors was down from previous years. That seems to be the case at most of the hamfests lately. If you went, I hope you were able to find all of the goodies you were looking for or at least got an idea of where you could get them. Norm (W8TTH) and I attended both of them and had a great time as usual socializing with friends. We even went out for Sushi with some of our friends from Toledo on Sunday afternoon. I would like to thank Ted (K8AQM) and Kaz (K8KS) for getting us addicted to Japanese Cuisine. It is fabulous. If you have never tried it, you don't know what you are missing in life.

Don't forget April is the month of the Michigan QSO Party, which is held the weekend of the 21st. We need your support like you have given in the past, so we can take away first place once again in the contest. If you have questions on how the contest works or where you can participate, I am sure Ted (K8AQM), Mark (NU8A), or Dave (K8AA) can answer them for you at the meeting on March 26th.

Be thinking about Field Day. It is only a couple of months away and we need to decide if the club is going to do anything as a group. If we can't get anything going and you still want to participate, I know we are welcome at several other club's events. All we have to do is get information on where they are setting up their stations and we can join them.

Don't forget to thank Ted (K8AQM) and Bob (K2IBM) for the fine job they do for us on The Tickler and our website. Get them articles and pictures, so they can keep up the good work.

I hope to see you all at the meeting next Monday night.

73,  
Ginny W8TTX

## The Lure of Tubes



"Vacuum tubes are to the electronic industry what steam locomotives are to the railroading industry; hot, inefficient maintenance headaches. But like a steam locomotive, a tube has a simple fascinating charm that no high-tech chip can match."

There is a big surge these days in "vintage radios" or "boat anchors" as they are called. To the left is KG8CO at part of his vintage station. Brian has a Johnson Viking II, a Viking Ranger, DX-60B, Hammarlund HQ-110 and Heathkit Warrior amplifier (us on AM; "amplitude modulation", a phone "thingy").

Recently Brian and I drove to St. Catherines, Ont-

tario (10 miles from Niagara Falls, 5 hours one way!) just to pick up his Ranger from Harry VE3BSA, seen in the picture with Brian and his Viking Ranger purchase.. This was to avoid damage in shipping of the Ranger. It was a great trip and Brian and I enjoyed talking about tube radios and what he finds on AM these days (since I do 99.99% cw I had no idea of the AM going on).

Brian enjoys AM and focuses on 160m and 75m and the Johnson gear has terrific AM on 160m. But neither the Valiant nor the Ranger were in complete working order and that's when Brian met Steve W8TOW in East Lansing, MI. Steve is amazing! From the pictures below you can get an



idea of just SOME of Steve's AM gear. Steve has Johnson gear, World Radio, Collins, Drake (his newest gear, a pair of Drake Twins circa 1975) and as you can see, lots of home brew gear far to numerous to mention and most likely unknown to most of us.

Steve met us at the Marshall hamfest and brought Brian's repaired Viking II. The Ranger will be picked up and in line also by the time you read this. Already Brian had the Viking II on the air and making QSOs on AM within 24 hours of getting the rig home.

Next on Brian's "to do" list is remodeling the station



and desk to accommodate this equipment along with his two FT-1000MPs and their amps.

Will Brian set his sights on an AM WAS Award? Too cool!

73...K8AQM

## *AARC Club Gossip! .....*

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

...this could be the month when NU8Z can make his Flex Radio presentation?  
 ...W8LNR is considering getting an amplifier? He'll be top dog with the 20m Florida gang!  
 ...Michigan QSO Party is coming up real soon? We need another club plaque!  
 ...rumors are abound; a new club in the area? Michigan Boat Anchors (W8MBA)  
 ...K8GX is now a member of the Straight Key Century Club?  
 ...NU8Z needs only one more country (BS7) to have worked them all and it's on in April?  
 ...K8GX has more "stereo watts" than "RF watts"?  
 ...K8KIC, K8GX and KG7FS worked each other via straight keys?  
 ...K8AA has a new antenna tuner for his Flex Radio?  
 ...NU8Z bought one of those new Tokyo High Power switcher amps for his Flex Radio?  
 ...K8AQM has acquired a Johnson Challenger transmitter and Johnson vfo?  
 ...NU8Z assures me this IS the month for a Flex Radio club presentation?  
 ...K8TLT and N8JMN were seen at the Marshall Hamfest?  
 ...a February Dxpediton is in the works for 2008 to the South Pacific?  
 ...the wind turned my quad from horizontal feed to vertical feed?  
 ...KB8NVL has a "sweet" HW-16 transceiver?  
 ...K8KIC now has his straight key in line with his MN-3?  
 ...NU8Z has 6 band (160, 80, 40, 15, 10m) WAS confirmed?  
 ...W8TTH actually gave up "over time" to go to the Marshall Hamfest?  
 ...KG8EF and KB8OXK have made it to two club meetings in a row?

## *AARC Club Minutes*

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board met at the Civil Air Patrol building on February 26, 2007. The Board was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Ginny W8TTX with the following persons present, Ginny W8TTX, Marge KB8TTM, Larry W8LNR, Norm W8TTH, Dick K8GX, Neil KC8DAR, Bob K2IBM, Ted K8AQM and Bill KA8ARK. Items discussed were, clubsign, Tickets for dayton Hamvention and the financial report which showed a balance of \$3,411.35. The board adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Ginny W8TTX at 7:30 PM on February 26, 2007, at the Civil Air Patrol building, with approximately 28 persons present. Rollcall was by callsign. Don KB8NVI motioned to accept the financial report which showed a balance of \$3,411.35. Norm W8TTH made the second and the motion passed. The minutes were approved as published in the Tickler upon a motion by Harold WA8QPS second by Ken K8KIC. The Motion passed. Ted K8AQM and Richard KG7FS discussed the Fist and Straight Key program. Dave KC8ITC announced that he had a list of equipment of a silent key for sale, Joe K8YZA moved to adjourn and Marion WF8F second to adjourn at 8:00 PM. The program was put on by Ted K8AQM and was about 3B9C's DXPedition to the island of Rodrigues.

Secretary Bill KA8ARK.

## 2007 MICHIGAN QSO PARTY

Attention Michigan Amateurs!!!!

It's that time of year again! It's time to gear it up and get ready for the 2007 Michigan QSO Party.

The MiQP has something to offer for everyone and there is no shortage of reasons for joining in on the fun on April 21st, 2007.

The MiQP offers a great opportunity just to get on the HF bands, have some fun, and represent the great State of Michigan. The organizers of this event would like to see as many Michigan stations on the air as possible. It is the activity of the Michigan stations that make this event a success. The MIQP activity has been growing each year

How about making this a club event? This type of event is what it's all about. It is a group activity that can be a source enjoyment before, during and after the event! Members could submit individual or multi-op logs under their own call and the name of your club. Hey, why not challenge another local area club or other groups or individuals within your club? The MiQP offers a great club plaque, but how about some awards within your club?

Those of you that take an active part in promoting amateur radio will recognize that the MiQP is just a great opportunity to expose some of your new or potential club members to HF activity. There is nothing like getting on the air and being the center of attention because you are a Michigan station!

Sure, everyone likes to have fun, but there could also be a serious side to this event. The MIQP offers a great opportunity to practice your logistical and operational emergency communication skills. You could set up a mobile operation, a portable operation from your own or some other Michigan county, or just operate from the club or home station.

As you can see from the rules listed below, this is only a 12 hour event. Please consider getting on the air for the whole thing, or any portion of the 12 hour period. You can operate from home, portable, or mobile. With the support of mobile and portable stations, we plan on having activity in all 83 counties.

Last but not least, we ask those of you that have participated in the MIQP to please help us get the word out and encourage other Michigan hams to participate and join the fun. The name of the game is to have fun and make Michigan "Radio Active" on April 21st. Hope to hear you on the air! See <http://www.miqp.org> for more details!

**Date /Time:** Michigan QSO Party, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z April 21st until 0400Z April 22nd. Stations may operate the full 12 hours. (12 noon to 12 midnight local Michigan time on April 21st)

**Modes and Categories:** Phone and CW on 80/40/20/15/10 meters. Single-op, multi-op, and mobile categories. Single-op entries are categorized by output power, QRP (5W or less), Low Power (100W or less), and High Power (greater than 100W)

**Multipliers:** Work stations once per band and mode. Work other states and Michigan Stations. MI to MI QSO's are allowed. Work portables and mobiles again as they change county, state or province.

**Exchange:** Exchange QSO number and location (county for MI stations, state/province or "DX" for others).

**Scoring:** One point per phone QSO, two points per CW QSO. Count multipliers once per mode. Multipliers are MI counties for all entries, plus states & provinces for MI entries only. Final score is total QSO points times total multipliers.

**Freqs:** Suggested frequencies: CW-3545, 7045, 14045, 21045, 28045; Phone-3800, 7200, 14250, 21300, 28450.

73 es cu April 21st 2007

Mark NU8Z

## More MiQP Data

Last year Adrian ARC won the MiQP club competition and we received a fantastic plaque (our second one). Let go for a third! Again I'll submit logs for all club members and do the score for you to if you're in need of a hand. I'll have paper logs at the meeting for those who log by hand and we can get together sometime after the party to handle the log turn-ins. Even just "a few" QSOs will help so set yourself a goal of some number of QSOs and go for it!

de K8AQM



## MiQP For First-Timers

The Michigan QSO Party (MiQP) is an operating event held annually with Michigan as the center of attention. This article is a quick overview for those new to MiQP, to explain what it is and to offer encouragement to jump in and participate.

First of all, what is a “QSO party”? Over the years, this term has come to define an on-the-air operating event focusing on a particular geographic area. Amateurs inside the target area (in this case Michigan) earn points towards their QSO party score for making contacts with other amateurs located anywhere, while amateurs outside of the target area get QSO party points only for contacting amateurs inside the target area.

The fun thing about MiQP for Michigan amateurs is that we are the center of attention. When a Michigan station calls “CQ MIQP” there will usually be several replies. Many MiQP participants make several hundred contacts during the event, even with modest stations such as barefoot transceivers and dipoles. For many, there is a tangible feeling of camaraderie as you work fellow Michiganders, some located in sparsely populated counties with exotic names like Chippewa, Missaukee, or Presque Isle.

What does it take to participate in the MiQP? All it takes is to get on the air during the MiQP period and make contacts with other participants. When it’s over, mail in your log if you like so that it can be checked and your score included in the results; you may even win a certificate or plaque. If you include your radio club’s name in your entry, then your score will be tabulated along with other member’s scores in a separate sub-competition to determine the top Michigan club in the MiQP that year.

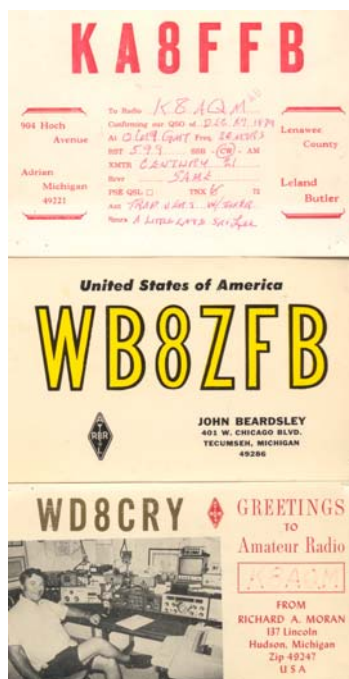
Making MiQP QSOs is easy. You can operate on any of the “traditional” HF bands (i.e., no WARC bands) from 80 thru 10 meters. The exchange is your QSO number for that contact – i.e., the first is 001, the second 002, etc., plus your Michigan county. On CW, everyone uses the official county abbreviations from the list on the MiQP web site. Stations outside of Michigan will send their QSO number and state or province abbreviation.

Barring some sort of major propagation disturbance, you will find MiQP activity on 40M CW & SSB for the entire twelve hour contest period. This is a good band to get a mix of in-state and out-state coverage, plus it’s popular with the mobile MiQP entries that move from county to county during the event. (Mobiles can be worked again when they change counties.). During the day there is usually good activity on 20M, and lesser amounts on 15M and 10M, depending on the solar cycle. Once darkness falls, there is a lot of MiQP activity on 80M.

Here’s how your MiQP score is calculated. Each CW QSO is worth two QSO points while a phone QSO is worth one point. Your final score is equal to the QSO points you’ve accumulated multiplied by the number of multipliers (Michigan counties, non-Michigan states and Canadian provinces) you work. Multipliers are counted separately on **both** CW and phone. For example, if you work Washtenaw County (WASH) on both CW and phone, that’s two multipliers.

As you start out in MiQP you might just want to make QSOs and have fun, but here are some suggestions to keep in mind which should increase your score. A station may be worked once on both CW and phone on each band, so try all five bands (and both CW and phone) to look for MiQP QSOs. The lower bands (80M & 40M) are usually better for in-state QSOs, and out-state QSOs out to 500 miles or so, but try the high bands (particularly 20M) to bolster your score with US states and Canadian provinces from out west. Also, while most people probably have a preferred mode they like to operate, because state and province multipliers are counted separately on CW and phone, in MiQP it’s worth the effort to spend some time on the “other” mode to build up the multiplier count for a good score.

## Silent Key QSLs, Do You Remember Them?



The first card belonged to a fellow who became a ham in his later years but was an outstanding CW operator. He lived in the city and hung around 40 meters where he did a lot of rag chewing. I know his first rig was a Ten Tec Century 21 but it wasn’t his last. He had a “name sake” that lived in the country. Do you remember this first class operator?

The second card belonged to an MSU student who was on his way to great things. A canoeing accident ended his life but until then it was lived to the fullest. This young man was Extra Class, a first class contester and a chaser of DX. It had an interesting shack surrounded on four sides by large windows and his rotor on his two element yagi was a strong right arm.

Number three was a well accomplished individual who taught at the Air Force Academy for awhile. He was a computer programmer and always had the latest gear and large antennas. I still have two of his amplifiers! He gave me my first start into “big time” contesting.

It’s hard to lose good friends but easy to write about these three fine operators and individuals. Their good points need re-telling; those of you who knew them understand and those who didn’t know them missed some very fine people.

...\_ de K8AQM

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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

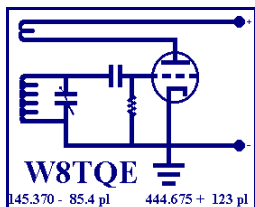
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan  
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

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

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

### AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

www.w8tqe.com  
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**First Class**