

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone. I hope everyone has had a good year so far. It has been a little windy lately, but you couldn't ask for better temperatures.

Make sure you come to the club meeting on Monday night. It is once again Officer Election night and Board Member Nomination night. The office of President is once again between Marge (KB8TMM) and myself and whatever the outcome we will both be glad to serve once again as President and Vice President of the Adrian Amateur Radio Club. Our Treasurer Mark (NU8Z) and our Secretary Bill (KA8ARK) will remain in office another year.

The meeting will be at the same time, but in a different location this month. It will be held across the road from the Lenawee Sheriff's Office at the old Title Company building. It is on the corner of North Winter Street and Maple Avenue. After the meeting there will be a presentation on Winter Storm Watch.

I would like to thank Ted (K8AQM) for the fine job he is doing as Editor of this newsletter. I would also like to thank Bob (K2IBM) for the great job he does with our website. Make sure you get on the website and check out "The Tickler" and all of the other fine things that make up our club. The website is www.w8tqe.com. Ted and Bob both can always use articles and pictures that may be of interest to all of you.

Norm (W8TTH) and I went to the Kalamazoo Hamfest this month and it turned out to be a good one again this year. Once again November will bring the Fort Wayne Hamfest which will be held this year on November 17th and 18th. Fort Wayne Hamfest is always a good time for all that attend. Norm and I will be in the upper level again this year, but I have heard there may not be a lower level at all this year. I hope the information I heard was incorrect, because that would be evidence that their hamfest is getting too small for two rooms.

Norm (W8TTH) and myself became grandparents this month. My daughter, Robin, has given us a grandson. His name is Wesley James. Make sure you ask to see his picture, if I haven't shown you already. My other daughter, Tonya (KC8DAP), is also having a baby soon. You might as well have grandchildren all at once.

See you at the meeting next Monday.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

K8UV Goes Green!

I received this email and attachment from Rich K8UV. Rich has made several upgrades within the last year to his station and this is the latest....editor

“I put up a solar panel to heat the shack last weekend. It is almost completed inside, I plan on using a 12 vdc / 120 vac combination of fans to force the return air from the ceiling of the shack through the heating panel into the floor of the shack. It of course will only working during daylight hours, at night I will be relying on a 500 watt ceramic ceiling heater I had used last winter. “ 73 Rich K8UV



Also from Rich was a picture of his latest straight key...editor



I picked up a key, it is British, WWII vintage AMP8-No.2 MK-III model and markings. It is amazing how smooth it is, not very large but I am looking forward to using it. Before you know it, I'll have a key for each rig!...73 Rich K8UV

DX Central...aka KG8CO's Place

When you drive along the Clinton-Macon Road you can't help noticing KG8CO's very fine antenna system. Brian has 4 elements on 40m at 125 ft, 21/41 40/20m @ 70 ft, a 10-30 MHz KLM log periodic at 100 ft, a Hygain TH-11 at 70 feet, a 160m inverted V at 110 ft, an 80m ground plane at 80 ft and assorted dipoles and vhf antennas also on those towers. Brian's interest now is 160m AM and the season is fast approaching when Brian will be found using his Viking II or Ranger on 160m AM. Brian recently added the K9AY listening antenna for 80m and 160m. He says the K9AY listening antenna is a "killer". In a recent conversation Brian said he was expecting to put in a strong effort in the coming 160m contests. *View from the drive* *The three beautiful towers* *The new K9AY 80/160 rx antenna*



AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...KG8CO was able to get KC8A back on "Echo Link"?
 ...K8AA is **still** waiting for his new Elecraft K3 to arrive?
 ...K8AQM is **still** waiting for his new Tokyo Hy-Power amp to arrive?
 ...N8CC had a nose operation to straighten it? Heck, I would have attempted it for free!
 ...KG8CO now has his own "tube tester" for his boat anchor rigs?
 ...K8UV and K8AQM are back in the J-38/J-37 key polishing adventures?
 ...N8ROR and K8UV have swapped rigs? UV now has a TS-140 and ROR a TS-570!
 ...WE8Z is still home and recovering from surgery? Best wishes Denny from all of us!
 ...K8HCL passed on his Heathkit tube tester to K8AQM? Guess Phil is now out of the tube era!
 ...N8ROR helped KC8ICT get his new 40 ft tower up in the air? Thanks Rory!
 ...W8LNR has 17 grandkids? Wow, a herd! Christmas must be wonderful!
 ...N8ROR, K8UV, N8CC, W8TTH and W8TTX were all seen at the Kalamazoo hamfest?
 ...K2IBM just returned from his 50th high school class reunion...but couldn't find his high school?
 ...N8ROR helped K8AQM level up the White Rat? TNX Rory.
 ...KC8A received his Mackinac Bridge Certificate for QSOs in the 2007 Michigan QSO Party?
 ...NU8Z knows of some great keyboard overlays for computer contesting programs? See Mark

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club board met at the Civil Air Patrol bldg on September 24, 2007. The meeting was called to order by President Ginny at 7:00 pm. Those present were President Ginny W8TTX, Marge KB8TMM, Bill KA8ARK, Larry W8LNR, Mark NU8Z, Norm W8TTH, Neil KC8DAR. Items discussed were, dues are due, The annual Sky Warn meeting will be held at the October meeting, The December meeting will be held on December 17 due to Christmas and will be a potluck. Officers will be nominated tonight.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the Civil Air Patrol building on 24 September 2007. The meeting was called to order by President Ginny W8TTX with 23 persons present. Roll call was by call sign. The minutes as published in the Tickler were approved upon a motion Harold WA8QPS the motion was seconded by Ken K8KIC. The motion passed. The Treasurer's report by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$5,776.69. Chuck KG8EF motioned to accept the report, Norm W8TTH seconded and the motion was passed. The membership was reminded that dues are due. Mark NU8Z presented a report on the Hamfest report, 220 people attended, Gross receipts were \$1,400 for a net profit of \$1,106.86. The Civil Air Patrol will be asked if it is ok to put a club sign on front of the building opposite the CAP sign. The October meeting will be held the 29th at the EOC building across from the old Sheriffs department building (formerly the American Title Insurance company). The December meeting will be held on the 17th. due to Christmas. Motion Norm W8TTH second by Ted K8AQM to award Vince W8ZJE a life membership in the club, for his many years as a member. Motion passed. Joe K8YZA reported that there will be an exercise on October 6 on 2 meters to practice message handling. Nominations for officers was held with Mark NU8Z being nominated for Treasurer. Ginny W8TTX and Marge KB8TMM were nominated for President and Bill KA8ARK was nominated for Secretary. Marge KB8TMM moved that the nominations be closed and Norm W8TTH seconded. Motion passed. Norm W8TTH moved and Mark NU8Z seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting Motion passed. Ted K8AQM presented the program on the 5A7A expedition. Secretary Bill KA8ARK

Making A Classic Classic-Looking



I have been restoring J-38 telegraph keys for the past year and you have seen the results published here in the Tickler. The keys were disassembled and polished by “Corky’s Polishing and then re-assembled and placed upon finished pieces of wood. The top two pictures on the left are my two J-38 keys; one an American Radio Hardware J-38 and the other a Lionel (yes the train people) J-38. The bottom key is K8UV’s 50 cent purchase back in the 1960s and mounted on a piece of Douglas Fir from Oregon. But something seemed to be missing for me, what with these beautifully restored keys, I thought they needed a more “classy” mounting. And thus began the project shown below.

Some one on the Straight Key Century Club reflector mentioned a web sight where exotic wood samples could be purchased. The web sight is <http://www.woodworkerssource.net/Merchant3/merchant.mv?>. I decided this would be the perfect place to get some “classy” wood for my restored classic keys. Checking out the sight showed me wood from all over the world and with sample pieces that were 6” x 3” x 3/8” and at about \$5.00 a piece this was reasonable. But 3/8” wasn’t thick enough to provide a solid base for operational straight keys....I guess I pound brass too hard. The solution was to use 3/8” white pine as a base and then to glue the samples to the pine board. Those of you who work with wood know that 3/8” or 2” x 4” boards are not quite what they measure. In fact, the pine board that was 6” was closer to 5 3/4 “. After gluing the exotic woods to the pine K8AA helped me out with his table saw and fine-toothed blade true each block up. I put a quarter inch bevel edge on each board and after sanding applied several coats of tung oil on each board. On the left you can see the edge-on view of



how the exotic wood was glued to the pine. The photo on the right shows the finish of each board. To the bottom of the boards was glued no-slide shelf material to keep the base solid with the operating table. On the following page each finished board is shown:





American Walnut



Blood Wood



Australian Sassafras



Chechen Wood



Wenge Wood



Zebra Wood

So with the new boards the keys look very “classy”. That’s Wenge Wood on the left and Blood Wood on the right. Since I have four extra boards of course I had to “acquire” four additional keys! Although the keys look great now, my CW hasn’t improved a bit!



N8ROR's New Shack and Rig

In addition to upgrading to General and acquiring a new call (old KC8FOP), Rory Swan from Manchester has a new shack layout and rig to go with his TA-

33 and G5RV. Rory now runs a TS-570 and as soon as bow hunting season is over will devote more time to chasing Dx around the bands. Now, to get himself about 500 watts to go with that great rig!

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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

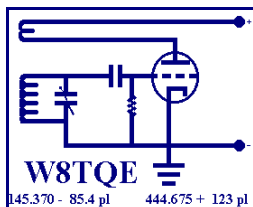
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

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

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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First Class