

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone. I hope you are enjoying your summer. A little cooler weather would be okay. Norm and I have been having a great time so far this summer. This weather is definitely good for motorcycle riding.

The Van Wert Hamfest was this month, but I didn't attend it. My family reunion was on the same day and you've got to do what you got to do.

Once again I can't stress enough to everyone that our Hamfest is coming up soon. September 14th will be here before we know it. Please contact Marjie KB8TMM and Ray W8RAY to see where you can help out. Help is always appreciated and there is always room for suggestions on how to make things better.

Sorry I wasn't at the meeting last month, but Norm and I did take our motorcycle trip to South Carolina. You can read about it in the article I wrote. Hopefully you won't find it a boring story. The trip was anything but that. It was fantastic and I can't say that enough. We will be at this month's meeting.

Don't forget to check out the website at www.w8tqe.com and get any new information and pictures to Bob K2IBM. He is our web master and we need to support him and the club by sharing he keeps up the website. Also, don't forget our newsletter editor, Ted K8AQM. He also needs our support. Get him articles and pictures. We don't need him making up a bunch of stuff to put in the paper. Without these two we wouldn't know what was going on with the club. They do a great job.

The meeting this month will be July 28th. I hope to see you all there.

73,s

Ginny W8TTX

Mountain Motorcycling Adventures

By Ginny W8TTX

Norm and I went to Greenville, South Carolina on our motorcycles a couple of weeks ago. We left on a Saturday and spent eight days of the road. We tried to stay off the main roads whenever possible. On the first day we rode all the way to Clarksburg, West Virginia. Norm wanted to get as close to Skyline Drive as possible, so we could ride on it when we started out the next day. We pulled off to find a motel just in time to avoid driving during a storm. That was great timing on Norm's part.

The next day we traveled on the wonderful curves of Skyline Drive and drove it all the way into Virginia to the Blue Ridge Parkway. We spent the next three nights in motels right on the parkway. We had to really rough it a couple of those nights, because there was no television, air conditioning, or cell phone and internet reception due to the mountains. It is hard to remember

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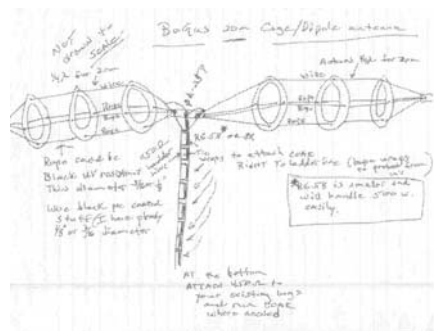
At this time there is no scheduled program for July's meeting

The Bogus Cage

“Necessity is the mother of invention” or so they say. The crew up at the Huron seems to think so anyway. Each year in the past required someone to climb to the crow’s nest and loosen pulleys to let down the cage antenna the original ship used for their VLF beacon signal and replace it with a 20m dipole that fit perfectly between the masts. The process was reversed and the cage replaced at weekend’s end. All this to ensure everything looked authentic for the “museum”. An idea was born, Replace three of the four cage wires with black nylon rope and feed the remaining wire with RG-8x and tie wrap it to the now detached 450 ohm ladder line. Thus a 20m dipole looking like the original cage antenna is now in place and no more climbing, lowering, raising, lowering, raising, and climbing is required. The sketch showing the bogus cage is here with details.



Ray N8RAY and Mike N8MIC made the bogus antenna and did the work of putting it in place. The photos show the bogus cage in place on the Huron. The museum director loves it as it looks for all



the world “just like the real cage.” The feedline tie-wrapped to the 450 ohm ladderline can be seen in the



photo. Where the ladderline ends a through-the-bulkhead SO-239 was used to bring the line into the radio room.

Ray says that without a tuner the swr is 1:1.4 and with a tuner 1:1, plus the tuner allows them to use it on 40m too. Having used the antenna on 20m we know it’s a great antenna and now even better because no one has to climb to the crow’s nest to set it up.

This is truly how amateur come up with great solutions to annoying problem and working within defined limits. The Huron Amateur Radio Club is a “class” outfit. By the way, talk to K8JVC Eric if you are interested in operating at the Huron for the 2009 Museum Ships event.

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...KD8IQO took a static hit on his ICOM Pro and lost some diodes?
 ...10m has been opening up more these days?
 ...KB8OXX and KG8EF will be operating as a special US Coast Guard station this fall?
 ...K8JVV is planning on activating the Huron next year in Museum Ships? Talk to Eric
 ...K8GX actually owns four guitars and can't even play?
 ...K8UV has a unique Russian telegraph key?
 ...When you read this K8AQM and WD8LCH will be in Norway?
 ...K8KS last month was in VR2, BV and PY? That's Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Brazil.
 ...K8GX actually missed two 10m CW net nights this month?
 ...KC8TQB runs his forge while wearing flip-flops and shorts? Tough guy!
 ...K2IBM is on another vacation?
 ...N8CC went about 10 days last month with no power?
 ...August "Ice Cream Social" is again at K8AQM's and WD8LCH's (Judy)?
 ...W8TTH and W8TTX "crushed" some crotch-rocket bikes in a "cornering duel"?
 ...N8ROR will be back to the club when his "shooting" club ends for the summer? We miss you!
 ...KD8IQO is building a fine operating desk for his station? Pictures next month?
 ...There are more 6m spots these days on the cluster than HF spots?
 ...W8TTH, the "metal wizard" has done it again? Great design of "the dot tamer" for bugs.
 ...KC8ITC has a refurbished bug...a beauty and an unusual beautiful J-38?
 ...K8GX and W8TTH took a "trashed" Vibroplex bug and made it into a "beauty"?
 ...K8KS has achieved the highest rank in the SKCC..."Tribune"?
 ...KB8OXX has retired from two of his four jobs?

AARC Club Minutes

BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order; those present: Marjie KB8TMM, Neil K8NP, Mark NU8Z, Larry W8LNR, and Dick K8GX.

Discussion was held on the Boyer and the Huron. Ted's program would cover the events of the day. Dues for 2009 are due and Mark will take care of that. Vendors for the 2008 Swap were also discussed. Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

The 50/50 was won by Ray W8YFT.

General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by V President, Marjie KB8TMM. After roll call the minutes were approved on a motion by Harold WA8QPS with a second by Dick WA8SUV. The treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Dave KC8TQB with a second by Eric K8JVV.

New Business, Ted K8AQM discussed the success of the Boyer and The Huron. There were over 737 contacts on the Huron and 550 on the Boyer. Ted passed out certificates to those who were on the Huron, Eric, Chuck, Bruce, and Ted. The guys on the Boyer got T-shirts A BIG thanks went to Denny who made the original contacts on the Boyer. The Boyer has extended a permanent invitation to BARC for a permanent room on the ship.

There being no further business meeting was adjourned.

K8AQM presented his program with many pictures of the "good times" had by all on the Boyer and the Huron.

Respectively submitted

Marjie KB8TMM, Acting Secretary

No Field Day for AARC

Although there was no official Field Day operation from the club, several members were actually quite active on Field Day. K8UV was the lone cw operator at the Chelsea club Field Day and made nearly 150 QSOs. K8KIC operating from home made just short of 200 QSOs and both NU8Z and K8AQM also operating from home made over 100 QSOs each. W8TTH worked 14 stations from his motorcycle, now that's cool! Perhaps next year there will be an interest in a W8TQE Field Day?

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how rough our lives must have been before all those things were possible to enjoy.

After our third night on the parkway, we drove to Cherokee, North Carolina. We parked our motorcycle trailer at the motel and then rode to US 129 which is better known as Deals Gap or The Dragon's Tail. This section of road boasts of 318 curves in 11 miles. One curve right after another - it is simply fantastic. Norm didn't tell me that we were on The Dragon's Tail until after we had already traveled it. He didn't want to make me nervous. I had been anticipating riding The Dragon's Tail and had imagined it would be a lot harder to manage the curves especially the way everyone had talked about. We survived and after stopping at the Deals Gap store for souvenirs, we continued our ride to the Great Smokey Mountain Parkway and rode into Pigeon Forge, Tennessee where we ate supper. After supper we got back on the Parkway and drove back to the motel in Cherokee.

After a good night's rest it was on to Greenville, South Carolina. The 30th Wing Ding was being held at the Carolina First Center in Greenville and attending the rally was our original incentive for our trip. The Wing Ding is the Gold Wing Road Riders Association's biggest rally of the year. Last year it was held in Billings, Montana and we made the trip out there as well. We got registered for the event and checked out the vendors at the flea market. We left and drove to our motel where we were spending the next two nights.

The next morning we visited the flea market again for a little while and then Norm and I decided to check out the local movie theatres. We decided we wanted to see "Get Smart". Of course, we had plenty of time before the movie was scheduled, so we had to visit the ice cream shop next door. Our anniversary was the next day and we knew we would be back on the road in the mountains, so after the movie we celebrated with our favorite cuisine which is of course Japanese. Norm and I are both addicted to Sushi thanks to Ted K8AQM. There happened to be a Japanese restaurant close by the movie theatre, so that is where we had our celebration dinner.

When it was time to begin our journey home, I told Norm I really didn't want to go back on the expressway and would rather ride the parkway again, so we did. We took the Blue Ridge Parkway back to Roanoke, Virginia and spent the night there. We left Sunday morning and drove the rest of the way home. We arrived home around 11 p.m. It was a long day and hard riding, but I had an extra day at home to get rested up before I had to return to work.

Norm and I had a great time and I can't stress enough how fantastic it was to ride a motorcycle on the curving mountain roads. I only wish we had roads here like them closer to us. Norm and I both love to ride and this trip was a great way to celebrate our anniversary. We had a great time and I would recommend a trip down the Blue Ridge Parkway to everyone. If you do go, remember to watch out for the wildlife. We had to stop for plenty of deer and wild turkeys on the parkway.



K8UV's Strange Russian Key



Now here is an unusual key. Rich K8UV found this unusual gem at the Chelsea hamfest. The key has a pot built in and a multi plug on the side of the case. K8AA described the key inside as a miniature j-38. Rich has been trying to find information on this key through the internet and may have some answers at the next meeting. As I look at this, I wonder how stable the key is in what looks like a high center of gravity enclosure. It surely must key several functions simultaneously with all those pin connections.

Rich is building a large collection of straight keys and bugs. He has them setup in a multi-plug configuration so that any key can be used at anytime to key his rig.

Huron Awards Presented



The Lightship Huron Amateur Radio Club president N8RAY, presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to K8JVW, KB8OXX, KG8EF and K8AQM for operating on the Lightship during the 2008 Museum Ships Operating Event. K8JVW, KB8OXX and KG8EF received their certificates at last month's radio club meeting from K8AQM.

It's been said several times before, the operation was great fun and the four of us feel very fortunate to have been afforded the privilege of operating on the Huron.

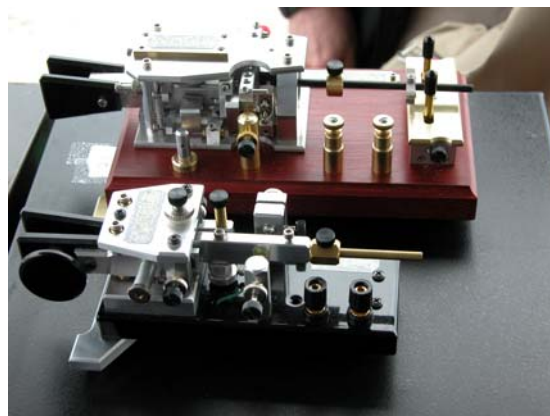
Next year may bring a different operating crew to the Huron.

Meet Another Metal Wizard ... WB9LPU Rich



At Dayton I had some of my refurbished J-38 keys on display. Rich WB9LPU came along and not to be outdone, pulled a couple of beautiful self engineered and handcrafted bugs from his backpack to display to all of us. I have worked Rich on 40m and he was using at the time a "vertical paddle" he had made but these bugs were something else! Even our own metal wizard W8TTH admitted they were a fine piece of work...and from Norm that is a compliment! Each piece was amazingly machined and polished to perfection. Do they work? Several of us were invited to give them a try and they were really something. Rich carried a CPO with him and hooked the bugs up for our pleasure.

Check out his website and homebrew/commercial keys at <http://wb9lpu.googlepages.com>
These keys are really a work of art.



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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

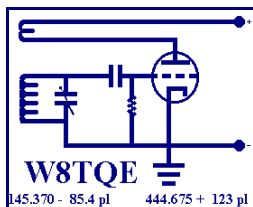
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September 14, 2008
Hamfest Chair Ray, W8RAY Marge, KB8TMM

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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First Class