

# The Tickler

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

Snow. Snow. Snow. We don't need any more. It has been a rough winter already. If this keeps up, the kids will be going to school a lot later than usual this summer. I heard someone say at work this week that there are only 2 days allowed for closings each year due to uncontrolled circumstances and they have already had at least 3 off due to weather and winter weather has just started in on us. It is rough on us people going to work, but we don't get snow days. We should!

It was determined at our November meeting that this month we will have a post Christmas Potluck. It will start at 6 p.m. at the CAP building. As always spouses are always welcome to all club functions. Please bring a dish to pass and table service. The regular meeting will take place after dinner.

Norm W8TTH and I did not attend any hamfests this month. There is one in Hazel Park on January 18th. I don't know if we are going to attend that one or not. We went last year, but didn't set up to sell anything. We may do that again.

Our board members once again for the upcoming year are: Norm W8TTH, Larry W8LNR, and Dick K8GX.

Norm and I hope you all have a great Christmas this year and get to spend time with your families. Also, we will wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR as we may not see you at the meeting, because we will hopefully be in Florida visiting our daughter, Tonya KC8DAP, and granddaughter, Shyanne. As I said last month enjoy yourselves. Life is too short not to.

Please don't forget to contribute to our newsletter and website. Our editor, Ted K8AQM, and our webmaster, Bob K2IBM both look forward to receiving neat stuff to include in their presentations (I guess I can call the website and newsletter presentations). They do a great job and do need our support. You can see the website at [www.w8tqe.com](http://www.w8tqe.com) and can also find the Tickler there.

The Christmas Dinner/meeting this month will be on December 29th, I hope you all have a great time. See you in January.

73s,  
Ginny W8TTX

**The club program may be a bit short as not too many of you submitted photos. During the dinner a Powerpoint will show the collection of club member photos. We have some great stations in our club and its fun to see what the other guys stations look like.**

## N8CC and the CQWW DX Contests

Most of us have a “dream” of how we’d like our antennas to be and what we would want if space and time were not limited. Jeff N8CC lives his dream. Much has been said about operating from Nashville, MI by many of us in the club and a lot of W8 awards have been issued to the stations operating from there. Jeff has put time, money and effort into building one of the finest stations in amateur radio.



No pictures can ever do it justice, it just has to be seen to really be appreciated. However, here is a snapshot view of some of his antennas. To the left is his 200 foot tower. Jeff does all the climbing, maintenance and repair on the tower and antennas. The antennas include a four element 40 at 200 feet, a pair of four element 20m antennas, a pair of five element 15m antennas and a pair of five element 10m antennas. There is also an 80m delta loop at the 180 foot level. For any of us that would be more than enough, but not for Jeff.

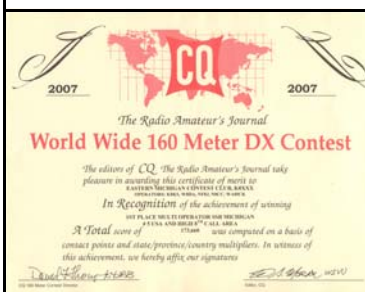


To the right is the 160m full size base insulated vertical with it's 120 quarter wave radials at the base. And this antenna is just for transmitting! Not shown are the four two wire beverages of 1000 feet that are used for receiving on 160m and 80m. This year Jeff designed and constructed a three wire vertical yagi switch-able from NE (Europe) SW (Pacific) for 80m as shown on the left. He also has a top loaded single insulated base vertical for 80m and is great to the south and NW for Japan.



And there is more! Pictured to the right is the multi purpose 100 foot tower that sports a two element quad for 20, 15 and 10m at 40 feet used for Caribbean and stateside QSOs. At the top is a WARC yagi for 17m and 12m plus a large five element 6m beam and a 30m delta loop. All antennas at Jeff's are fed with hard-line so every effort is made to get the power to the radiating antennas.

And do these antennas “radiate”? You bet they do! Combine these antennas with good radios in the shack and the cadre of good operators and Jeff's walls are covered with awards! Here are just two of this year's awards, both for the



CQWW 160m DX Contests; SSB and CW. This year's will also include several from the November CQWW CW DX Contests. The new multi-multi 2008 MIQP (AARC sponsored)

plaque looks great on the wall too!

It's no wonder Jeff looks dazed and amazed in this picture...with all the antenna work and station upkeep! We haven't even told you about the “chaos” that develops in the shack as rigs are switched, antennas re-routed and garbage produced during the weekend of these contests! We leave that too for Jeff to sort out!



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

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

...very few of you sent pictures for our pot luck show?  
 ...K2IBM has taken a "like-ing" to Echo Link?  
 ...K8AQM's new shack is ready to move into?  
 ...K8GX broke his hip? Bummer!  
 ...KD8IFM upgraded to Extra? Way to go Gerry (now AC8CM)!  
 ...January is the SKCC operating event as K3Y and many AARC guys will be active?  
 ...K8AQM lost his 40m portion of his log periodic ...ugh!  
 ...the 10m cw guys may have a new member? Welcome KD8IQO!  
 ...K8KIC is basking in his new furnace heat? His shack is "toasty"!  
 ...you can't see much "radio" in NU8Z's shack? ???  
 ...W8RAY is now a VE? Welcome Ray!  
 ...this year will see K8NP, WE8Z and K8TLT all QRMing each other in Florida?  
 ...Ron KD8DNV built two ICOM computer-rig controllers?  
 ...there are some "closet" boat anchor guys? K8KS and KC8ITC have tube receivers in their shack!  
 ...KG8CO is not impressed with his shuntfed 160m vertical? Too tall?  
 ...K8UV has "ice spikes" for his shoes to get to his shack from the house? K8GX should've had some!  
 ...W8TTH/W8TTX say their shack is too "messy" for a picture? Impossible!

## ***AARC Club Minutes***

The Adrian Amateur Radio club board met at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport on November 24, 2008. The meeting was called to order by President Ginny W8TTX at 7:00 pm with the following persons present:: Ginny W8TTX Marge KB8TMM, Larry W8LNR, Dick K8GX, Neil KC8DAR, Norm, W8TTH, Bob K2IBM and Bill KA8ARK. The financial statement showed a balance of \$5,058.30. XMAS potluck Dec. 29. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

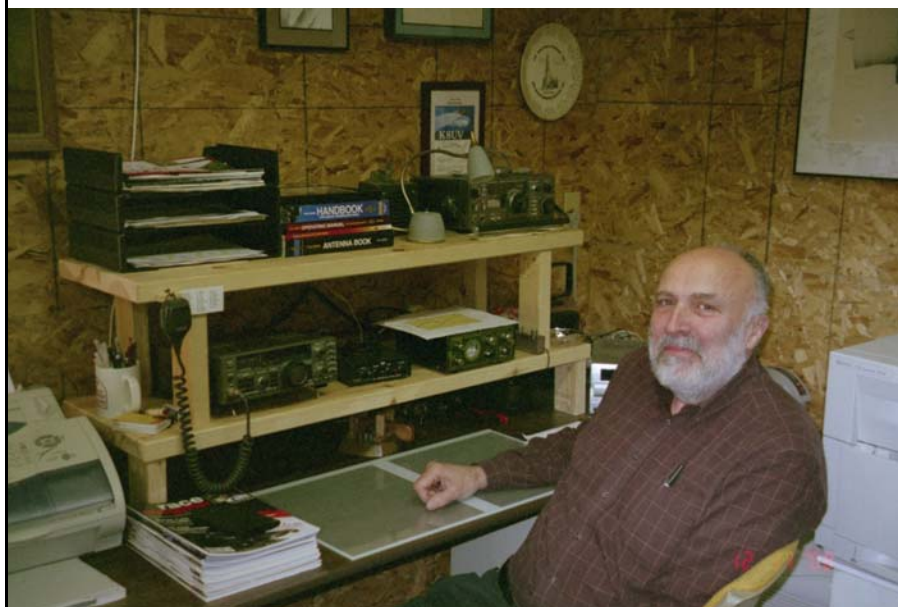
The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport on November 24, 2008. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by president Ginny W8TTX with 31 persons present. Ted K8AQM requested members to send him articles for the Tickler. The financial report sent in by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$5,058.30 and was accepted upon a motion by Norm W8TTH second by Don KC8OGW. The minutes were accepted upon a motion by Chuck KG8EF second by Bruce KB8OXX. A motion was made by Norm W8TTH to have the potluck on December 29 at 6:00 pm. A motion was made to have no vote for board members as they were running unopposed. A Discussion followed about the digital repeater that Norm W8TTH received from Homeland Security. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm upon a motion by Harold WA8QPS second by Ken K8KIC.

Secretary Bill KA8ARK.

Secretary's note: If you find yourself making and seconding motions in these minutes that you don't recall doing, be advised that I found a key on my computer that completely wiped out the minutes of this meeting (I still don't know what key it was as I thought I hit the save key but it must have been something else) so I had to reconstruct them from my feeble memory. Sorry, Bill KA8ARK.



## AC8CM ... Antenna Concept



Gerry ex-KD8IFM and now Extra Class AC8CM enjoys antenna theory. When you visit Gerry's QTH you see a perfect place for wire antennas ... trees, trees and more trees! With the help of "EZNEC" an antenna modeling program, Gerry has come up with an amazing multi band wire antenna that will center on 20m and give him a lot of gain while tunable on several other bands. It's the "tuner" that is of interest here. Most of us would go out and buy an auto-tuner or maybe some manual MFJ tuner. Those who are talented would go gather the parts

at the next hamfest or visit Digi-Key or some other on-line parts supplier. Not Gerry, nope, not Gerry! Gerry decided "the way" is to build the auto-tuner and that includes the tuning capacitor! Yup, the actual



tuning capacitor. Made from glass and copper Gerry used the necessary formulas to calculate the capacitance needed for his tuner. Just check out the glass plates and the copper wafers Gerry made and assembled in his capacitor! Each piece of glass was cut and sanded and the copper cut and cleaned in the capacitor. A large amount of relays will be employed to provide the auto switching in the unit. But wait, there is more!

You and I would put the tuner in the shack and tune the antenna and coax. Not Gerry, he decided the best place to tune the

antenna is right at the center connections thus insuring maximum efficiency of the antenna system! So this auto-tuner will "hang" at the center of the antenna up in the air and be fed with RG-213. Wow, we'll have to make sure we get pictures of this when it happens. Perhaps when it's all together and the antenna functioning we can get Gerry to give a club presentation of his antenna and the tuner. The predicted gain figures are very interesting and the pattern of the antenna of several bands is quite something.

Yup, those trees are natural antenna towers and Gerry is the man to make good use of them. Did I mention that Gerry's QTH is also on a hill top? That won't hurt anything will it ... ha! We're looking forward to reports on this Gerry as you get it developed. Be sure to take pictures!

## My Ham Radio Christmas Wish...



It's Christmas time. I remember when Christmas meant some asked-for amateur radio gear gift. My parents when I was a freshman in high school bought me a Hallicrafters S-107 and a Heathkit Q-multiplier one Christmas. Man, I was really having fun on 80m now; no more regenerative receiver that drifted all over the band! Then as a junior in high school my father and mother bought me a Drake 2B with Q-multiplier and a Hallicrafters HT-37 transmitter. Wow, now I could work SSB, 20m, 15m and even 10m! Life was GREAT! Today most

of us don't need Christmas or a hamfest to get the gear we want. Hop on the internet and with a VISA/Master Card and the items are on the way. But what if we could ask "Santa" for that special amateur radio gift (and you didn't have to pay), what would you ask for? Here's what some of the guys in the club would ask Santa for:



- K8KIC.....a nice "talking" Kenwood TS-480!
- K8UV.....an Omni VII transceiver from Ten Tec!
- KD8IQO.....a new place to live where I can have a great antenna farm!
- K8AQM.....all my "boat anchors" restored and working well!
- K8AA.....nothing, I have it all now!
- WE8Z.....to copy code better! (Join the Thursday night 10m gang!)
- KG8EF.....a tower climber, young, wants to work for free or for water!
- KG8CO.....50 more acres for my 9 element vertical array for 160m!
- KB8OXX.....put up my tower and beam so I can get on the air from the house! (elf work?)
- W8TTH.....my own DX island with station and an airplane to invite my friends!
- K8GX.....a 7.0-30 MHz log periodic antenna!
- AC8CM.....a Flex 5000 software defined radio!
- K2IBM.....a 60 ft. crank up tower! To work K8AQM on his Dxpeditions!
- W8LNR.....a new Icom 7800 with the big screen!
- N8CC.....five more Henry 8K amplifiers!
- K8YZA.....the Kenwood TS-480 would be great and my tower back up with antennas!
- K8NP.....a Kenwood TS-480! Very popular this year.
- K8TLT.....a new antenna rotor! Mine is broken.
- N8QEW.....a tilt-over tower and triband yagi!
- W8ZJE.....an Icom 7800! Santa's got an extra \$10,000!
- W8RAY.....an Ameritron AL-811H amplifier! QRO is good!

I guess we'll just have to wait and see if "Santa" heard any of these Christmas wishes. From your editor , Holidays Greeting and may 2009 be a wonderful year ... maybe we'll even get a few sunspots!

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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

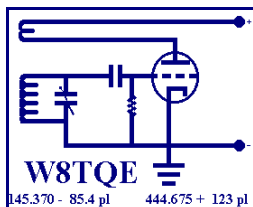
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan  
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

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

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

### AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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**First Class**