



# The Tickler

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

Hi everyone. It has been a little hot, but it has been a beautiful summer so far.

Norm W8TTH and myself just got back from a trip to the Upper Peninsula. It was a good time. We went up for the Junior Diabetes Fund Raiser which is known as the Midnight Ride. Most bikers leave Grand Rapids at midnight on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month of August and ride all night up to St. Ignace. Our group always goes up on Thursday or Friday during the day. It is usually a lot warmer ride. The folks coming into town at 7 – 9 am always look real tired and cold and sometimes wet. This year they seemed to have fared quite well on their journey. We even got in some radio contacts on simplex during our daily outings. Norm spoke to someone in a plane on the way back home from up North. The fellow said he was traveling at 400 mph. I am glad we weren't going that fast on the ground.

We didn't make any hamfests this month and I hope if any of you did that you found lots of bargains and had a great time.

Next month we have two hamfests. The Findlay hamfest will be on September 7<sup>th</sup> and of course ours will be the following Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a few vendors at our show this year, so please come prepared to buy something. We want to keep them coming back. Two that I know for sure that will be there are: Hamthreads (B&B Embroidery) and Elmer's Hamshack. Elmer's Hamshack are the folks that bought out Com-dac. That should give you all an idea of the variety of merchandise they will bring. Marjie KB8TMM will have an update of vendors for us at the meeting this month. She will also have a list of where we will need help for the hamfest.

This month it is once again time for our Ice Cream Social following a brief meeting. We will meet this year once again at Judy WD8LCH and Ted K8AQM's home. Their address is 1600 Wolf Creek Highway, Adrian, MI. Please bring your lawn chairs, bowls, spoons, and favorite ice cream toppings to the event. Also, please thank them for sharing their home with us.

Don't forget to check out the website at [www.w8tqe.com](http://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 things through the website. Also, don't forget our newsletter editor, Ted K8AQM. He also needs our support by giving him articles and pictures. They both do a great job for all of us.

The meeting this month will be August 25<sup>th</sup>, I hope to see you all there.

73,

Ginny W8TTX

## KD8IQO Ron's New Antenna and Shack



Ron KD8IQO (known as KD8IQ "zero") operates on 10m and first began with a "slinky" dipole and upgrading to a full size dipole. The dipole worked well but Ron wanted to get more "bang for the buck". Using RG-213 has elements and considering the velocity factor, Ron was able to make a small footprint two element yagi to give his signal gain and directivity. Ron placed the coax inside PVC pipe and glued the configuration together in his home as shown in the photo. The center conductor of the coax was soldered at the far end to the braid while the center conductors in the middle of the antenna were attached to the coax feed line like any dipole.

The photo on the right shows the antenna against the sky and includes the "arm-strong" rotor Ron uses to turn and secure the direction of the antenna. The photo below illustrates that the antenna is well below the surrounding trees and fits nicely into Ron's home environment. Ron has about the same signal strength as his dipole when he



uses this antenna for the local 10m net but the antenna comes into its own when chasing DX and those west coast stations. Ron says the SWR is below 2:1 across the band and he really notices the antenna's performance when comparing those long



haul QSOs to the dipole. Check with Ron for details if space is limited for you and you want an antenna with directivity and gain at a very low cost AND one that really does work!

Here is a picture of Ron's neat shack (be careful Ron, "a neat shack is a sign of a sick mind") and another of Ron's interest. Ron is building a desk for his equipment and when completed will be a very nice piece of furniture.

Ron plans to upgrade to General at our hamfest next month. Good luck Ron and we'll see you on the lower bands soon.



## August Meeting is Our Ice Cream Social

**Don't forget this month's meeting is our annual ice cream social meeting. The meeting will be held again at K8AQM and WD8LCH's place at 1600 Wolf Creek Hwy. Bring your chair to sit on, a bowl and spoon (or shovel) for the ice cream and all the latest gossip! If you have a special topping you like, bring it too. The QTH is north of US-223, second drive on the left as you head north past Lenawee Christian School. Black top drive heading straight up with a 4 x 4 pole at the driveway entrance listing K8AQM, WD8LCH and K8XXX. Board meeting at 7:00 as usual and the meeting at 7:30. Parking is at the driveway top.**

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

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

**...this is the time to get those antennas repaired and installed for the winter season?**

...K8ADM was in a serious auto accident but is recovering?

...NU8Z gave his wife "carte blanche" in remodeling her kitchen? Wow!

...K8TLT and WA8AWZ went to Alaska?

...K8KIC, KC8ITC, K8GX and K8AQM all are using W8TTH's "dot slower" on their bugs?

**...the next meeting is the ice cream social at K8AQM and WD8LCH's QTH?**

...KD8IQO made a two element yagi from RG-8 and it's nice and short?

...N8CC and W8TTH are wiring the new K8AQM shack...*TNX?*

...W8YFT says the "dog house" on the Boyer is ready for our inspection?

**...next month is our hamfest and you can help? See Marge KB8TMM or Ray W8RAY.**

...KG8CO has a new 160m antenna? It's his 120 ft tower?

...N8AMM has joined the 10m cw with his new 10m dipole?

...N8JMN's daughter got married this summer? Impossible, just "yesterday" she was a little girl!

...K8AA has a new computer scope for his radio?

...NU8Z is dreaming of a new radio? Payback for that new kitchen of his wife's!

...KG8EF and KB8OXK are getting ready to run a special event Coast Guard station?

...N8AMM has laid out the plan for his new 80 ft tower and shack location? Happening soon!

...K8GX has his new rotor plate in and his beam works again?

...WE8Z has gotten into eating buffalo?

...KD8IQO has worked 43 states on the 10m "dead band" this year?

...K8XXX multiop team won the multi-multi competition of the 2008 Michigan QSO Party?

...KG8CO won the battle for single op high power for Lenawee County in the 2008 MiQP?

## ***AARC Club Minutes***

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board met at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport on July 28, 2008. The following persons were present: President Ginny W8TTX, Marge KB8TMM, Larry W8LNR, Dick K8GX, Mark NU8Z, Bob K2IBM, Norm W8TTH, Dave K8AA, and Bill KA8ARK. The financial statement by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$4,540.25. The board talked about the hamfest. Two vendors "Elmer's Hamshack" and "B and B Embroidery" have said they will be present at the Hamfest this year. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order by President Ginny W8TTX at 7:40 pm on July 28, 2008, at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport with 25 persons present. Rollcall was by call sign. The Treasurer's report by Mark NU8Z showed a Balance of \$4,540.25. Motion to accept the report by Harold WA8QPS with support by Norm W8TTH. Motion passed. The Minutes as published in the Tickler were accepted by a motion by Denny WE8Z second by Norm W8TTH. It was noted that volunteers are needed to work the Hamfest. Vendors, Elmer's Hamshack, and B & B Embroidery will be here this year. New business we discussed the possibilities of getting new jackets. See Joe K8YZA re: 1. Details on RACES and an Simulated emergency test on Sept 27. 2. Mass casualty practice event August 6. The next Club meeting will be August 29, and will be an ice cream social at Ted K8AQM and Judy WD8LCH's QTH. Bob K2IBM reported problems with people not checking in to the net when there is severe weather also it would be good training for more to check in on the Sunday night net. The Meeting was adjourned at 20:09. Secretary Bill KA8ARK. The program was presented by Neil K8NP on the subject of house wiring problems.



## Oh the Pain and Shame of It All!



Here is how I left the front of my new ham shack. I had mentioned to a few of my “friends” that since I am an MSU alumni that I was thinking of putting a white “S” on my green door. Of course those that call themselves my “friends” are misguided in their favoring of that “other school” in Michigan and they “threatened” to paint my door blue with a yellow “M”. As Judy and I headed for Norway I locked up the new shack ... but ... as you can see my door was vandalized! I returned home to find the door with three white circles spaced across the front as shown.



I had no idea what three wide spaced white dots were suppose to mean and after confronting my “friends” I was shocked to learn that the dots represented an “S”, but such wide spacing...who could tell? If they had consulted K8KIC they would have had an expert opinion on the correct spacing of dots. Perhaps spacing as shown in the photo below would have been a correct spacing for those who really know code? But since these shameful vandals and my



“friends” (K8GX, W8TTH, K8AA, W8LNR and K8ADM) are not code proficient, how could they know?

The shame is not done yet! It was two more days before I went inside to clean up a mess from wiring. Oh be still my beating heart!

What should I see on the inside of my “locked” shack! A blue door with two yellow dashes representing an “M”; which I did not get either due to the mental stress and anxiety I was going through with the

trauma of my “S” on the door! Now I must talk to Dr. Bob and hope he can help me through this trying time of mental torture! Clearly you can see with these photo that I must find better friends!

Seriously, although I rant and complain, this was a prank of brilliance and creativity. I say with tongue-in-cheek, “Oh the Pain and the Shame of It All” but this was a classy way of putting an “S” and an “M” on my door. I’m glad they’re my “friends”! Thanks guys for the laugh and humor. Still I don’t think I’ll ever let them know when I’m on vacation again!



## Vibroplex 100th Anniversary Bug

Vibroplex has produced a “100 year anniversary” model of the Vibroplex Original bug. It’s a beautifully power coated black based model with gold trim. The operation of this bug is very smooth so it performs as well as it looks! I won’t bore you with the price but it seems to be worth every penny!

Check this out on the Vibroplex web page.



## K8GX's Antenna Fix

"Tis the season to fix those antennas", well in K8GX's case it was twice past the season! Dick has a Hygain TH-6 on a self supporting BX tower at about 60 feet. Two seasons ago the rotor plate broke from the tower thus making the big yagi spinning at the mercy of the wind. For one reason or another nothing got done last year to fix the antenna. This year W8TTH decided not only would we fix the antenna but we would replace the wire used to lower the tower. Dick decided that since we had the tower down we should remove the 2m 13 element horizontal antenna and replace it with a 6/2/440 vertical.



Dick, W8TTH and K8AQM got together last month and began the process to lower the tower. This is not exactly an easy job. Dick, as shown here, had to loosen bolts and pull one out of the leg entirely. After jacking up one leg to start the lowering, W8TTH used his truck battery to run the motor that would lower the tower. It's a scary thing



to see that much steel and aluminum hanging at that angle as it is slowly lowered to the ground. As the tower tilts you begin to think about all that weight on the hinge of the base; you think about all the work and money you have invested in this project and you give a little silent prayer that the bolts on the hinge hold and that the wire (which was to be replaced) holds until the antenna is propped securing

on the ground. Everything went well in the lowering and the antennas

were all intact and the tower secured. The work could now begin.

Norm and Dick replaced the old cable used to raise and lower the tower with new shiny aircraft cable while I was sent to fetch the 12 foot stepladder needed to reach the top antennas. The new super-duper extra strength rotor plate built by Norm was installed. The old 12 element 2m yagi was replaced with the new triband vertical and the antenna raised without a hitch.

Dick can now turn his yagi at will and enjoys the directivity and gain of signals across the band. Heck, he can even hear K8UV up in Manchester clearly now (and Rich can hear him too). Dick can now also monitor 440 and work 6m too. Yup, "tis the season..."





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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

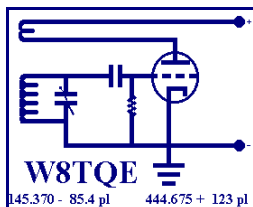
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan  
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

### 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**