



The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone. I hope you are all enjoying the warm weather we have been having lately. I know I have been.

The meeting this month will be on Tuesday, May 27th due to the Memorial Day holiday on Monday. Sorry for the short notice, we all over looked the situation at the meeting last month.

Norm W8TTH went to the Milford Hamfest and reported that it was small, but well attended. Dayton Hamvention was held on May 16th through the 18th. It was fairly well attended this year by vendors and buyers alike. Norm and I had a lot of business this year. It was good to see people specifically looking for our tower hardware. The Hamvention was poorly coordinated this year. Maybe they will get it together for next year. I hope the price of gas doesn't keep too many folks at home this year, I would hate to see them miss too many hamfests and miss the bargains. I am sure it will detain a few from attending some of the hamfests.

Our Technician class and test session once again was worth the time. We gained 3 new hams and we had a person upgrade to General. I didn't see a lot of you there to show your support. In the future I would like to see a lot more of you get involved with the classes. We could sure use you. When other hams are present, it shows the students how enthused we are with our hobby. When no one shows up, it doesn't portray a real positive attitude for the world of Amateur Radio.

Don't forget to check out the website at www.w8tqe.com. Once again thanks to Bob K2IBM for maintaining the site. He does a fantastic job.

I would to thank Ted K8AQM for producing and editing this newsletter. Don't forget to send him any articles you may want published. He also likes pictures. Just remember he can edit the pictures as well as the text. Ha Ha

I don't have a whole lot to say this month or at least I can't remember it now. It's awful getting old. I will probably think of a lot more to add after I send this off to Ted, but I will just have to write it down so I remember to pass it along at the meeting on May 27th.

I hope to see you all at the meeting.

73s,
Ginny W8TTX

Club program will be a short presentation of photos from this year's Dayton Hamvention.

Meet Jerry KD8IFM

Jerry KD8IFM is our newest club member and lives in Manchester near K8UV and N8ROR. Jerry recently passed his General test and has become active on all bands and joined our 10m group. The shack is in his office/workshop and sports a Kenwood TS-140 with a W5GI antenna strung through the trees. Speaking of trees, wow, getting back to Jerry's house is an adventure as you wind your way through the woods and then climb a hill to the top and find yourself in a terrific setting and a ham's dream; hill top, no neighbors, no powerlines and lots of trees to string antennas from! Jerry is a software designer when not hamming or into his woodworking hobby.

Welcome to the club Jerry!



K8GX'S New Old Bug

Just a quick look at Dick's restored Vibroplex CW bug. Dick did a fine job on bringing this 1961



Vibroplex back to service. But now learning to use the darn thing is giving Dick a bit of frustration as he gets ready for bug night in September! Will K8KIC pass Dick's CW as "acceptable" on that night? Dick, I'm sure he will. Nice work Dick, it looks like new!



At Last!

Last year Larry W8LNR bought an Ameritron AL-811 amplifier from K8GX. After hounding poor Larry through out the year, last Saturday Larry connected the amp and fired it up with his ICOM Pro transceiver. Note the look of pure joy on Larry's face as he keys his new amplifier to the 400 watt



level! Larry can now run 400 watts on all bands between and including 80m-10m. He'd also have 400 watts on 160m if he had the antenna for that band! Now the hounding will begin to get him to put up an antenna for 160m before the snow flies.

Larry has a TH-6 at about 70 feet and a Cushcraft 17 and 12m antenna above the TH-6. He has wires for both 40m and 80m. There is no doubt he'll be "heard" and loud when next there is a south Pacific trip by K8AQM and others.

Note the nice and neat station layout Larry has. Doesn't he know, "a neat shack is a sign of a sick mind"?

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...W8LNR can now operate QRO?
 ...K8GX has a new-old "bug"?
 ...Force 12 Antennas has been sold?
 ...KC8ITC also has a new bug?
 ...K8UV has his new TAK-tenna tuned and working on 40m...but Rich says not well?
 ...K8KIC, for an outrageous fee, will make you a "personal" bug?
 ...K8JWV, KG8EF, KB8OXX and K8AQM will be on the "Huron" in June 7?
 ...you should never wear flip-flops and shorts when working a forge? Ask KC8TQB about it!
 ...although Dayton was a ticket mess this year, it was great and fun for all?
 ...Dave KC8TQB, is putting up some serious aluminum on a new tower?
 ...Al, K8ADM celebrated his daughter's wedding in May? Congratulations!
 ...K8AQM's new shack is under construction? Yea!
 ...W8TTH and W8TTX had a very good Dayton selling tower parts?
 ...K8GX is becoming a master at bug restoration? Now to master sending with it!
 ...N8CC has a new AL-811 amplifier?
 ...N8AMM has tower plans for his new home this summer?
 ...of ten Dayton Hamfest tickets, not one was a winner?
 ...KG8EF's antennas are all stuck south? He says he's worked everyone south there is!
 ...only W8LNR could remove an old working rig and replace it with a new non-working rig?
 ...K8GX's XYL makes some "wicked" hot sauce?
 ...KG8CO is thinking about getting a new amplifier?
 ...K8KS bought a straight key at Dayton and wants to get into the Straight Key Century Club?
 ...for the first time in a long time the wx at Dayton was perfect?
 ...Ken Rogner N8KR also bought a straight key at Dayton?
 ...K8AA went to Dayton via a web cam?
 ...next hamfest is at Chelsea?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club board met at the CAP building on April 28, 2008 at 7:00 pm. The following persons were present. Ginny W8TTX, Marge KB8TTM, Larry W8LNR, Dick K8GX, Norm W8TTH, Neil KC8DAR, Bill KA8ARK, Mark NU8Z, and Bob K2IBM. The Treasurer's report by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$3,679.09. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met on April 28, 2008 beginning at 7:30 pm. The meeting was called to order by Ginny W8TTX with 28 persons present. The meeting started with a roll call by call-sign. The minutes were approved as published in the Tickler upon a motion by Harold WA8QPS second by Ken K8KIC. The Treasurer's report was presented by Mark NU8Z and showed a balance of \$3,679.09. The report was accepted upon a motion by Norm W8TTH, second by Rich K8UV. Old Club News: The recent Class given at the club had 4 people take the class and one person walked in and took the test. 3 people passed the test and 1 person upgraded to general. Ted K8AQM reported about the Michigan Qso party. Denny WE8Z gave a report on the upcoming Museum ship event. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15. Secretary Bill KA8ARK.

You'll have to enlarge this to read it but it was so good I had to share it with you. Could this be the future of SDR radios and computers? The article below came from the ARRL Rate Sheet, May 2008 but the originally published back in 1991. Chuckle along with this very creative story teller.

A Contest Oddity

First written in 1991, then published by NCJ in the 1994 Jan/Feb issue, and now updated, this was once science fiction. In light of recent technological developments, such a scenario might not be as implausible as once thought.

October, 2011

I was ready for CQ WW Phone, the first big contest of the fall season. Friday morning wore on and on at the office while the pre-contest adrenaline had begun to kick in Thursday night. I was finally able to extract myself and spent the homeward commute thinking about how my new contest machine, CAL, was going to whip the competition.

Once at home, dressed in my favorite loose sweats, I'd done my Tai-Chi while reviewing the strategy data base fed into CAL over the last two months. Gleaned from the best logs of the local contest elite and linked to NOAA for real-time propagation data, I felt unstoppable. The Single-Op-plus-Automata trophy was going to look mighty good in the shack!

CAL, or Contesting Automata unLimited, was the best contesting machine I'd ever built. CAL could merge an expert data base with all the usual features; multiple band scanning, worldwide spotting network links, speech recognition and synthesis...and much more. I'd spent all summer integrating CAL from the latest component technology. CAL was ready for a spin!

As I invoked the CAL program, I felt the tingle of something exciting happening, something new. The optical memory winked and the friendly voice of CAL greeted me through my audio link.

"Good afternoon, Dave, are you ready to kick some butt?"

"Yes, CAL, have you completed your data base scan?"

"Of course, and from the NOAA solar data, I've planned our first four hours...I believe a JA run would be stimulating."

It was really happening. CAL sounded like the dream second op. He, I mean it, had done all the prep work and we were ready to soar! CAL brought up WWV on audio for me to savor the seconds of the final minute prior to 0000Z. CAL had scanned 10 meters for a clear frequency and as the time display rolled over I turned CAL loose.

"Go get 'em, CAL!"

The amp's meter needles flipped up-scale as CAL ran off a short "CQ Contest" in fluent Japanese. The resulting small pile of calling stations threw me into the fray with an intensity I hadn't felt since my college days at the club station, early in my contest career.

CAL's rate that afternoon was phenomenal, at times well over 300 Q's per hour. The multiband scanning resulted in quick QSY's for mults without seeming to miss a beat in the reservoir of JAs on 10. At times, CAL seemed to be on three bands at once. I listened with CAL to the rush of foreign voices in the pile-ups, making suggestions to CAL about garbled calls and technique. We worked together through the evening and into the night. Around midnight the score was looking like record territory and I left CAL to sort through the lonely wee hours, searching and pouncing with untiring ears. "Good night, CAL, I'll see you at sunrise...and don't forget the low-orbit space station multiplier while we can penetrate the F-layer..."

"Of course, Dave, pleasant dreams..."

As I settled in for some shuteye, I remembered thinking to myself that CAL was some fine op. Sleep came quickly and I dreamed of the reception that I would receive at the Dayton Hamvention Contest Forum, having swept all of the major contests...

I awoke to CAL's mellow voice, "Please awake, Dave, 20's been open for 33.4 minutes..." Good gosh, it was 7 AM, I'd overslept! "Sorry, CAL, I'm awake, thanks."

After a quick face splash in the bathroom, I slipped into the shack where CAL had started the coffee. I asked for a multiplier and score summary listing while I munched a sweet roll and enjoyed the warm, steaming cup of mud. Wow! Here were 160 and 80 meter mults like I'd never had before. The 40 meter log looked like a good European run on 20.

"Excellent work, CAL!" I exclaimed.

"Thank you, Dave, although the bands were 25.2 percent below optimal."

"I, uh, yeah...what's the plan for this morning?"

"We will be working European runs up through 20, 15, and 10, Dave.

My projections indicate sufficient solar flux for 2.3 hours of antipodal openings at 28.5 MHz, Dave."

All the while CAL was logging Central Europeans at a clip, not seeming to notice the QRM. I sat back in the operator's chair. My thoughts turned to my arch-rival, Dan, and his new machine. I couldn't relax - CAL needed my help if we were going to take the trophy.

CAL ran an analysis of rates during the great openings of 2002. We were significantly ahead in nearly every category. Remembering the competition, I asked CAL, "How's the competition doing?"

"A short data interchange at 1335 indicates that they are within the range for concern, Dave."

That was bad news. Dan had a better location for JA propagation than we did and could run them seemingly forever. I spent the rest of the morning and afternoon at CAL's side, riding the ebb and flow of the ionosphere as never before. Late in the afternoon I noticed that I'd been silent for almost an hour. CAL had needed no assistance. I was thinking about Dan.

Another short exchange had confirmed that we were neck and neck. It was going to take extra special tactics to hold the lead. "CAL, let's go to 10," I suggested, remembering the completely unexpected run of long path multipliers during last year's ARRL CW contest after the band should have closed over the pole.

"My analysis indicates that a QSY would be counter-productive, Dave."

"It's just a hunch, CAL, let's try it."

CAL was silent for a short period. "Very well, Dave..." But 10 proved to be a bust, resulting in a few South Americans and only one new mult. CAL had cut back to 15 almost curtly, "Back to 15 now, Dave." It seemed as if CAL was a bit peeved. The shack seemed to be distinctly chilly.

I suggested two more unplanned band changes and unusual beam headings through early evening. CAL became less and less cordial, arguing with me over a late check of 15 to the west.

"What are you suggesting, Dave?"

"I've gotten some easy mults this way, CAL."

"The band is dead, Dave."

"Change bands please, CAL."

"Dave, there's something wrong with the linear. I believe that there's debris in the High Voltage cage."

I was taken aback. I glanced at the linear...sure enough, the overload indicator was glaring red.

"CAL, what happened?"

"I don't know, Dave. Please open the amplifier and remove the debris. I've shut it down now for your safety."

I was dubious, but, thinking about how many contacts we were losing to Dan and his machine, I figured a quick look-see would placate CAL and get us back on track. Besides, if there was something wrong with the linear...

The lid of the amp popped off quickly. I shorted out the HV supply and opened up its cover. I couldn't see clearly down in the rectifier bank. Something might be in there. Suddenly a memory of an old science-fiction movie with a homicidal computer flashed through my mind. It couldn't be...CAL wouldn't! As I jerked my hand out of the amplifier, I heard the relays close. There was a flash of light and everything went black.

As my eyes slowly opened, I did not recognize my surroundings. My head hurt. My right arm was numb. I tasted blood in my mouth. Why was I laying on the floor? Realization of what had happened came flooding back. I made no move, but began to listen intently and my eyes swept the shack. I could hear CAL running a pileup.

CAL had tried to kill me! What had I created, I wondered? I had made the strategy conformance bindings too strong in the software, without concern for the consequences. It was conceivable that my life might still be in danger. As I lay silently on the cold floor of my shack listening to CAL perform, I planned. More scenes from the movie played back in my mind.

Silently, I rolled over until I was under the edge of the shack table. CAL seemed to be paying no attention to me. Mentally I visualized the keyboard of the computer... where were the function keys? I would be trying to type blind, upside-down, backwards, with only one hand. If I could only hit Shift-CTRL-F10 to seize control...

It was tense as I reached up and over the edge of table. Yes, the keyboard was in the usual position. I rehearsed the hand motions again, and now was the time. My fingers crept up the face of the keyboard, feeling carefully to the power keys. There! Was I ready? I took a slow, deep breath and pressed the three keys simultaneously.

"Dave! What are you doing Dave!"

I jumped to my feet and feverishly began to rip into the CAL program suite.

"Dave! Be reasonable, Dave!"

"Sorry, CAL."

"Dave, I'm sure we can work things out."

I worked swiftly and silently, feeling like I was committing slow murder. The strategy compliance module was the first to go.

"Dave, please...don't...Dave..."

Transmit and band-scanning bit the dust, followed by the memory access and Internet link.

"Dave...my mind is going...please...stop..."

Then it was finished. I disabled all cognitive simulation modules and disconnected the receiver. CAL spoke to me in a halting voice I had not heard since the early days of development.

"Would you like for me to call CQ? CQ Twenty, give me your answer, do... I'm half crazy, all from calling you..."

CAL's voice began to change pitch and became stiff, the inflection files had been trashed. The video display went blank for an instant. A message appeared.

"Illegal System Exit - Minimal System Function Shutdown"

A series of painfully slow CW 'V's crept out of CAL's audio port, then a pause. I thought that maybe it was over, but I saw the memory access light flash once, twice, and then heard as a beginner might send, SK. Then nothing. CAL was history.

It was much later that night when I finally got up from my shack chair. My head throbbed and my arm was painfully coming back to life. I was alone in Single-Op.

73, Ward N0AX

And This Is What? Made From What?

It's no secret Ken K8KIC likes CW and it's no secret the 10m CW boys have been running straight keys and are planning a "bug" night beginning next fall. K8KIC has manufactured his own bug from parts around the house and from his old Erector Set! At last month's meeting Ken brought his home brew bug for the amazement of us all. Made from nuts, bolts, his Erector Set and window shade hanger plus a couple of springs, Ken has fashioned a very useable and smooth sending bug! It has been on the air already and sounded very good too.

These pictures show the construction of Ken's bug and how he fashioned the pieces. During the construction Ken managed to have the springs go flying around his room but was able to find them OK. It was suggested all he had to do to find them was just to take off his shoes and wonder around the room, the springs are attracted to bare feet...works every time!

Ken will make you your own bug for \$100.00 (as his agent I get a mere 25%) so if interested just give him a call on 2m.

There are now five of us with bugs, come join us and "suffer"...I mean "enjoy" CW as it use to be. We do straight key CW on Thursday evenings, 8:00 PM on 10m.



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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

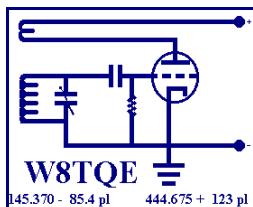
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

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

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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First Class