

# The Ticker

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

Hi everyone. Hope everyone is well. Our weather has been pretty unpredictable here lately with warm weather one day and blowing cold wind the next not to mention the down pours of rain we have been getting. We even got a little snow last weekend. Of course, we do live in Michigan where, if you don't like the weather wait a few minutes and it can all change. I forgot. We will probably skip spring this year and go right into the Hot! Hotter!!, and Hottest!!! weather we have seen yet. I hope not.

Norm W8TTH is once again going on his annual motorcycle trip to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. He is going to ride down with the Harley guys this year instead of the Gold Wing riders, but they should all end up in the same vicinity. I am sure they will have fun and eat well during their stay in Pigeon Forge. I hope they will also have a good ride and the weather stays great for them. The morning of April 24<sup>th</sup> is when they plan on leaving Adrian. Norm said, if rain is suspected for that day they will leave the night before right after he gets out of work.

It is that time of the year again and the time sure has flown by us. It is already time for the Dayton Hamvention which will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19th. Hopefully it will be well attended this year by vendors and buyers alike. Let's hope the price of gas doesn't flair up just for the trip. If you have never been to the Hamvention, try and make it this year. You must at least go once in your life. Life is too short not to make the best of every opportunity you can within reason of course. At any rate Dayton is a good time for all.

Don't forget to check out the website at [www.w8tqe.com](http://www.w8tqe.com) and give any information or pictures to Bob K2IBM that you would like to post on the site. He is a great web master and we all should appreciate the way he keeps up the website. Also, this newsletter would not be possible without our editor, Ted K8AQM. He also needs support from you by sending him articles and pictures. Without these two fellows, information about our club and upcoming events would not be readily available to all of us. Thank them both the next time you see or hear them.

Hope to see you all at the meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

73s,  
Ginny W8TTX



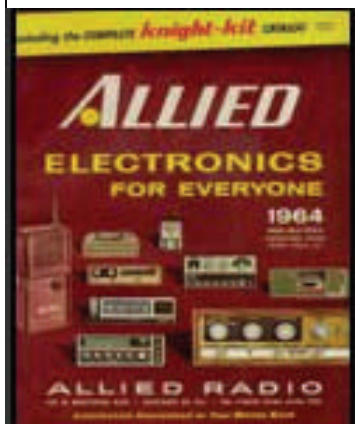
## FCC On The Hunt!

It has been noted this winter by the FCC that an exceptional amount of radio activity has occurred in Lenawee County. Due to the strength and large amount of this activity an investigation has begun to trace and track these "huge" signals. Both CW and SSB signals have been detected with meter pinning strengths. It appears the greatest of these signals originate in the northeastern portion of the county in the area of Clinton, Michigan. Additional large meter pinning signals are also believed to originate in the Tecumseh and Adrian cities, although not to the strength and frequency of those from Clinton.

Disturbing reports from citizens claim their TV shows are disrupted and those in the farming areas complain their cows produce less and their chickens no longer lay sufficient number of eggs! Should you know of the source of these meter destroying signals please contact the FCC office nearest you. The above photo is believed to be one of the operators in the Clinton, MI and maybe running the call KG8CO!

## Allied Radio Catalogs

For those of you that might be interested in a trip down "memory lane" you might want to check out the below website that allows you to browse through old Allied Radio catalogs that run from 1929 to 1984. As many of you likely know Allied was taken over by Radio Shack sometime in the 1981. The [main page](#) of this website gives access to all the catalogs during the above specified period. I browsed the [1964 edition](#). This catalog was the one that I ordered the Knight Kit "Span Master" Shortwave receiver kit (Page 52) from. I also bought the "C-100" Walkie Talkie's (Page 51) in the same year. I earned the money mowing lawns and shoveling snow. I think my parents also kicked in a little bit. These were the first radio kits I ever built. They both worked with no problems. If you are an old guy like me? Enjoy! NU8Z



## Going to a Hamfest!



I have a funny (and true) story about something that happened in Findlay Oh. about 10 years ago. Myself and some other AARC hams had spent the night before the Hamfest in a local hotel. The Findlay Hamfest is normally held on the first weekend after the Labor Day. As Many of you may know, there is also a big bicycling event that is also held in Findlay on that same day as the hamfest. While eating breakfast in the hotel breakfast room on the day of the Hamfest, myself and Ted (K8AQM) struck up a conversation with one of the cyclist that was there for the big ride. He was wearing the typical bike riding gear. We discussed the weather and his upcoming bike ride. Then he asked *"what you guys in town for?"* Well we told him that we were there for the Findlay Hamfest. With a questioning look on his face he asked, *"where is it held at?"* Well we told him that it was at the local fairgrounds. He asked *"How many people come to a hamfest?"* Well, we told him that this was one of the bigger regional hamfest and that there would likely be well over a thousand people. To that he responded, *"well that's totally amazing, you just would not think that there would be that many people out there that are interested in Ham!"* With god as my witness (and Ted) - this is a true story! 73,  
73 Mark NU8Z

## AARC Club Gossip! .....

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

...K8AQM has another set of "boat anchors"?  
 ...K8TLT is thinking about building a Magnetic Loop antenna?  
 ...K8NP found "treasures" in our club station?  
 ...K8KIC is getting his home painted inside?  
 ...K8LAR has a new K2?  
 ...as W8TTH is the "metal wizard", NU8Z is the "web site developer wizard (and Dr. Bob too)?"  
 ...Bill KD8TTM "had" mic troubles with his TS-520; but all is well now with buying an MC-50.  
 ...K8AQM, K8KIC, K8TLT and NU8Z are net controls with W8TTH and KG8CO as backups?  
 ...N8KR is still buying and selling equipment? Contact Ken if you need something.  
 ...WE8Z and K8NP are back from Florida?  
 ...it's possible K8AA may have a source for "chains?"  
 ...KD8TTM reports no 2m signal reception inside Walmart? Guess I can't shop there!  
 ...K8KIC made 306 QSOs in the MIQP this past month? WoW!!!!  
 ...N8AMM has his tribander rotating again?  
 ...K8NP "could" be K4NP? Neil now has a house in Florida.  
 ...WB8NPI is adding "mobile" with an HF rig in the car?  
 ...K8ADM has installed an R-5 at his new QTH?  
 ...W8TTH is back from his motorcycle trip to Missouri?  
 ...WE8Z will NOT be going to Dayton this year?  
 ...N8KR and K8AQM work the SKCC SKS as a multi-multi effort and made 101 QSOs?  
 ...K8NP will have a vertical tied to his metal roofed home in Florida?  
 ...there will be no "pre-Dayton" Adrian ARC hamfest?  
 ...WE8Z may be looking for a vertical left-handed bug?

## AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board met at the CAP building at the Lenawee County Airport on mar 25, 2013 and was called to order by President Ginny W8TTX at 7:PM. Those present were: President Ginny W8TTX, Larry W8LNR, Neil KC8DAR, Dick K8GX, Mark NU8Z, Bob 2IBM, Norm W8TTH, and Bill KA8ARK. Items discussed were upgrade classes and surrounding Hamfests.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the CAP building on March 25, 2013 and was called to order by President Ginny W8TTX at 7:30 PM. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the Tickler by a motion made by Dick K8GX second by Bill WB8NPI and passed by a vote of the membership. The Financial report was given by Mark NU8Z and showed a balance of \$5,597.01. A motion was made to accept the report by Neil KC8DAR second Don N8AMM and passed by a vote of the membership. The Mich QSO party will be held on April 20th and someone is needed to run it as Ted K8AQM will be out of town. Joe K8YZA will have a program at the next meeting describing how the HAMS fit into the Red Cross communication system. A volunteer is needed to run the testing in October 12 and 19 from 8 am to 4 pm. There was discussion about the Sunday net and who is scheduled to run it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Bill KA8ARK, Secretary.

## Magnetic Loops, QRP, and Morse Code Operating!

I have been experimenting with building and using a Magnetic Loop antenna. My good friend Dave, K8WPE purchased the “AlexLoop Walkman” antenna made by Alex, PY1AHD last spring at Dayton. The antenna is very well built, compact, covers 7.0 to 30 MHz, and is easy to set-up and use for QRP portable operating. Dave allowed me to barrow the antenna to learn more about what makes a magnetic loop antenna, and how they could be used for portable HF QRP operating. The whole antenna fits inside a very nice case about the size of a laptop computer.

I thought, I would try and make a copy of the original antenna as I had my notes, measurements, and pictures to use for reference. I used gray electrical PVC pipe for the three piece modular center support. The larger induction loop was made from 3/8” hard line or Heliac, and the smaller feed loop from 10 Ga solid electrical wire. The air variable tuning capacitor is the heart of the antenna. A dual section air variable capacitor is better for tuning than a single section capacitor as there is less hand capacitance while tuning for low SWR. I thought, I had found the exact same capacitor that Alex uses but I was wrong. My copied antenna only tunes 14.0 to 29 MHz and 10 watts input power is the max because of the capacitor plate spacing. Here is what my antenna looks like.

I have been using the antenna clamped to my desk top next to my QRP radio for about three weeks. I have found the antenna very helpful in reducing near field electrical noise from computers, and other electrical noise generators like my wife’s quilting machine. “On the Air” reception reports are what I would have expected. My CW signal reports are 339 to 559 on the magnetic loop and 458 to 589 on my vertical antenna. CW QSOs have been made under excellent propagation conditions to contest type stations in Morocco, Spain, Poland, Germany, and other European countries. I have had QSOs with SKCC



members on the east coast, west coast, southern states and Canadian stations.

What I like most about this magloop is that it can go with me to the park, beach, woods, or hill top for portable operating, while my vertical has to stay home, alone! It is a very nice addition to my KX3 for getting out of the house, doing something different, and operating in the fresh air.

To learn more about magnetic loop antennas I would suggest looking on YouTube (Alex has a number of very well done videos), searching the web for Magnetic Loop Antennas, or even join the MagLoop yahoo group. I will be happy to send my construction notes and suggestions along with more pictures if you are interested in building an antenna like mine.

72/73 Jeff - K9JP

## NU8Z Web Site

Just a quick note to let you folks know that I have published a website. I have played around for some time learning the ends and out. Wasn't sure I would ever publish it. It was more of a educational thing than anything else. Just wanted to learn how to do it. But now that the work is done, I guess I might as well pull the trigger and publish the thing.....*de NU8Z*

Check it out!! ....*editor's note, this is great and well worth the visit. Mark has done a great job!*

See [www.nu8z.net](http://www.nu8z.net)

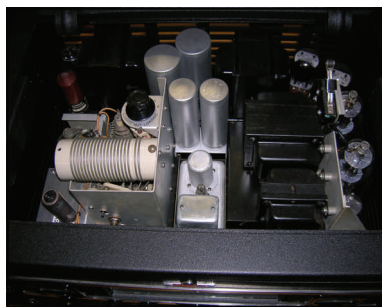


## 1946 Collins 75A-1 and 32V-1

It took nearly eight years but my Collins 75A-1 and 32V-1 receiver and transmitter are back and fully restored! I bought the pair in a very sorry non-working condition in 2005 and wanted them “restored”. There is only one place to have them TOTALLY rebuilt, repainted and restored and that’s with W3HM, Howard Mills who lives in Harper’s Ferry, WV. Howard breaks them down to their very basics; cleans, repairs, rebuilds and modifies Collins radios so they come out “better than new.” With newer and better tolerance parts and powder coated cabinets they are beauties! Those of you who have seen my W3HM restored Gold Dust Twins know what I mean!

Howard gave me tune-up instructions and a talk through on the radios. They truly are beautiful and I expect to have some great fun with these running my straight key, bug and even my D-104 on AM (if I can ever get KG8CO to fire-up his Valiant!)

Below are a couple pictures of the insides of these beauties.  
32V-1 transmitter                      75A-1 receiver



## Museum Ships 2013 Tri-fecta!

As you know the club has been involved in the Museum Ships Operating Event for many years. This year there is something new. Three different stations K8F, K8B and K8M will be on at the same time through our club’s efforts. The theme is “November’s Fury” and based on a beautiful painting by Steve Witucki. All three ships, the Fitzgerald, the Bradley and the Morrell sank during November gales on the Great Lakes. This year if you work all three ships you can download a pdf file from our web site, <http://www.novemberfury.com/> and print the certificate shown below. Thanks to the efforts of NU8Z a terrific web site has been set up giving details of the operating event and especially information of each of the ships. Information for each call is available also on QRZ.com. KG8CO, N8AMM and W8TTH will head up the operation of K8M in Rogers City, N8KR and K8AQM will run K8F from Whitefish Point and K8PGJ and others from the Detroit area will be on from Rogers City running K8B. Other operators will be joining each crew.



Don't forget the club will also run from the new Toledo location for the Schoonmaker KC8JMS; K8KIC, K8NP and WE8Z will head-up that station.

The event is June 1st and 2nd, info can be found at the “November’s Fury” web site.

## President

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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 8:00 p.m. The ARES Net on 145.370

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 37th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September 2013

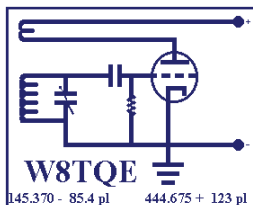
Hamfest Chair

Mark NU8Z@comcast.net

### AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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**First Class**