

# The Tickler

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

Hi everyone. Hope this letter finds you all well. We seem to be having a strange winter so far. Getting very cold for a few days and then unusually warm and causing some very unusual weather behavior. I am referring to the last day of the Fort Wayne Hamfest. There were numerous tornados spotted around Ohio and Michigan with strong winds lasting over night and well into the morning. It took several trees down in Lenawee County and I am sure did some real property damage for some. I hope you were not among those affected.

Last month Ted K8AQM did not receive my letter though I did send it, so this month we are starting a confirmation technique to ensure you get my wonderful letters (hi hi). I know it just broke all your hearts to see the first page of The Tickler empty where my letter would have normally appeared. Of course, since I hadn't had time to download it before the meeting I didn't find out it had gone missing until the meeting. It was a little late to fix the communication issue then. Sorry.

Norm W8TTH and I went to the Fort Wayne Hamfest once again this and once again enjoyed seeing all our friends and made a few sales. I was disappointed to see so many bare spots in the room. There were a lot fewer vendors there than in the past years. Of course that has been the norm for other hamfests every year for a while. I was just hoping that it wouldn't hit the Fort Wayne show as it is one of my favorites. I did see lots of Adrian folks there. It was good to see you all.

Norm W8TTH was able to get out and hunt on the first day of Gun Deer Hunting Season as opening day fell the day before Fort Wayne this year. However, he did not see one deer. Hopefully he will have a little more luck than that the rest of the season.

Last month at the meeting we had the board member nominations and we vote this month. Those in the running are Bill KD8TTM, Bruce KD8KQR, Dick K8XG, Larry W8LNR, and Norm W8TTH. Make sure you come to the meeting and vote for the 3 of your choice.

If you don't come to the meeting this month, I hope you had a great Thanksgiving Holiday with your families. Life is too short not to. I am sure you had a lot of good food and ate a lot of it as well.

The meeting this month will be November 25th, I hope to see you all there.

73,  
Ginny W8TTX

## **Club Program**

If all goes as planned the program will a presentation of the YJ0RK Dxpediton. This Dxpediton is a very low pressure opration and very similar to what KG8CO and K8AQM often do. Program is 30 minutes.



## “The Answer is Blowing in the Wind”

So how is this for a pretty cool backyard CW display? Richard WB9SFG came across the plans for this unique “wind vane” and passed them on to Dave N9ZXL who “had” to put one of these together. Dave says the wind turns the prop and it is attached to the hand and it hammers on the key.

I’m wondering who the QSO would be with as the key hammers away. Bet it would be really easy for this brass pounder to achieve an SKCC Rag Chew award!

If you’re interested in one of these maybe Richard or Dave can direct you to a set of the plans?

## The Trap

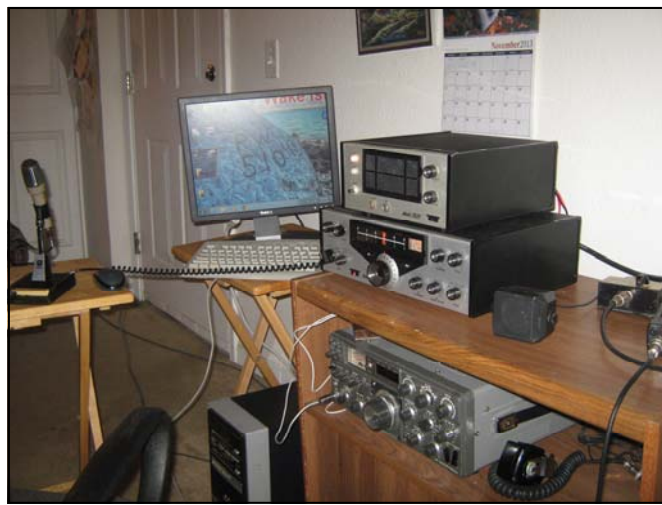
I have a Hygain TH-3jr that was only working (low SWR) on 10m. That led me to believe there

was an issue with the 10m trap. Of course no way to tell which so I had to take them both apart. The trap on the left is “healthy,” smooth coating on the winding but the trap on the right has arced over (too much power) and will need to be cleaned and coated. Watch your power on these 300 watt antennas!



## From “This” to “That”

The picture on the left “was” the shack of Bill KD8TTM. Bill decided to “upgrade” the look of his shack and make it more comfortable for operating. Checkout the improvement of the “new” KD8TTM shack. I have to admit, I leaned on Bill a bit to make his station “look” better but then I forgot to tell him the old ham radio saying, “a neat shack is a sign of a sick mind!” Sorry Bill, now you’re just as bad as the rest of us! Regardless of the “look” Bill’s station works very well and he is closing in on his WAS Award.



## AARC Club Gossip! .....

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

...Brian KG8CO just bought a Command HF amp? Big sucker!  
 ...N8KR Ken, is now in Florida for the next two months? Lucky!  
 ...WE8Z, K8KIC, K8TI, K8HCL, K8NP, KD8TTM and K8TLT were all seen at Fort Wayne's hamfest?  
 ...the club made \$400 at the Ft. Wayne hamfest?  
 ...anyone need a very good TS-520s of Johnson Matchbox tuner (300 watter)? See K8AQM.  
 ...K8KIC and K8AQM really like JB Weld... even if N8AMM doesn't!  
 ...Mark, NU8Z is now a member of SKCC?  
 ...Bill, KD8TTM is going for his Extra in December?  
 ...Jeremy, KD8VSQ is a new club member who got his license through our one day class? He is on 2m  
 ...if you need yard work done Bill KD8TTM's son CJ, does great work?  
 ...K8AQM has a new "Dub Bug?" What is a "Dub Bug?"  
 ...Bill WB8NPI and Ken K8KIC held a "jam" session (accordion and harmonica)?  
 ..."CJ" Bill KD8TTM's son, will go for his Technician in December? Good luck CJ!  
 ...Mike KG8CW was in the area this month?  
 ...the club station needs bandpass filters (\$332.50) for two-station operation?  
 ...Bill WB8NPI, says 10m has been wide open(I agree!)?  
 ...Mark NU8Z has nearly 300 countries worked on 80-10m? Wow!  
 ...Ken K8KIC, has begun his wintery euchre withdrawal?

## AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio club board met at the Civil Air Patrol building located at the Lenawee County Airport. with the following persons present: President Ginny W8TTX, Larry W8LNR, Norm W8TTH, Bob K2 IBM, Bill KA8ARK, Mark NU8Z, Dick K8GX, and Neil KC8DAR. The meeting was called to order by President Ginny W8TTX at 7:00 PM on October 28 2013. Items discussed were an Update on the new ham class, Nominate board members, Hamfest at Ft Wayne on November 16 & 17 2013. The board Meeting adjourned 7:30 PM.

The regular monthly meeting of the Adrian Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport and was called to order by President Ginny W8TTX at 7:30 PM on October 28, 2013. Bob Hall won the 50/50 DRAWING and donated his portion back to the repeater fund. There were 24 persons present. The September minutes, as published in the Tickler were approved by motion from Bill KD8TTM second by Norm W8TTH and voice vote. The AARC Register Report was presented by Mark NU8Z and showed a balance of \$6,813.18. and was approved by a motion from Alex K8ADM second by Bob KE8FX and voice vote. The new ham class thanks to Mark NU8Z, Denny WE8Z, and Ginny W8TTX was recognized as a big success with new member Jeremy a new member in attendance. It was reported by Ted K8AQM that the purchase of the new backup repeaters was held up due to inventory problems. A free pass to the Ft. Wayne hamfest was given to one of the members who was going and a letter was read with agenda for the meeting. The following members were nominated for election to the board, which will be held at the next meeting: Norm W8TTH, Larry W8LNR, Bill KD8TTM, Dick K8GX and Bruce KD8KQR. It was moved by Cletus K8TLT second by Denny WE8Z to close the nominations. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. Secretary Bill KA8ARK.



## Fort Wayne Hamfest 2013



Hamfest are getting smaller every year and the Fort Wayne hamfest is no exception. Even though there are fewer shoppers and fewer vendors there are still great times to be had at a swap.

Again this year N8KR Ken and I had a table and were set up for “tradin’ and sellin’”. It’s an early morning to head off at 5:30 but well worth the effort. Of course Ken being into buying and selling: “buy low, sell high” is his motto...(hmm, I always thought it was “buy high and sell low”), Ken had all kinds of gear on the table and did quite well when the event closed for the day.

It’s always great to see old friends and to meet new ones at these ‘fests. This year brought out a stellar collection from our club; Dan K8TI, Ken K8KIC, Phil K8HCL, Denny WE8Z, Cletus K8TLT, Neil K8NP, Bill KD8TTM and his boy Clinton and of course, (seen in the pictures below) Ginny W8TTX and Norm W8TTH. Yes, that’s Norm in his “Hatfield and McCoy” outfit! The feather seems to be a recent addition to his wardrobe.

Although the hamfest is two days, most shoppers come on Saturday. Due to the ever decreasing number of those attending, I suspect we’ll soon see Fort Wayne reduced to one one day. Even at one day Fort Wayne is well worth attending and always enjoyable.

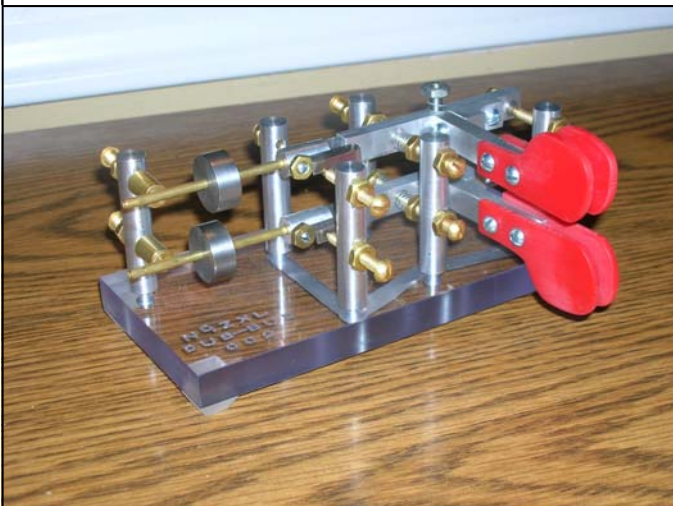
One important sale for the club did take place. The club has had for year a “donated” (long ago) World War I field radio. It had been sitting in the closet mainly unknown to anyone so it was decided to sell this unit if we could. I am happy to report that the unit sold for \$400.00 at the Fort Wayne hamfest!





## The “Dub Bug”

As you know, I enjoy my bug (semi automatic keyer). I have a very good friend in the SKCC who, like Norm W8TTH, has a shop with equipment to work metal. Dave N9ZXL, enjoys designing, making and



using homebrew telegraph keys. Dave makes straight keys and various “bugs”. His most recent project is this two right angled bugs mounted on one base. Anyone who uses a bug correctly knows you have to reposition contacts if you changes speeds; the spacing is all wrong if you don’t. Dave got tired of readjusting his bug for slower and faster speeds so came up with this idea...mounting two bugs on one base. Either bug can be used at anytime with nothing more than moving your fingers from one to the other. One bug is set for slower speeds (you decide what speed and settings) and the other bug is set for a faster speed.

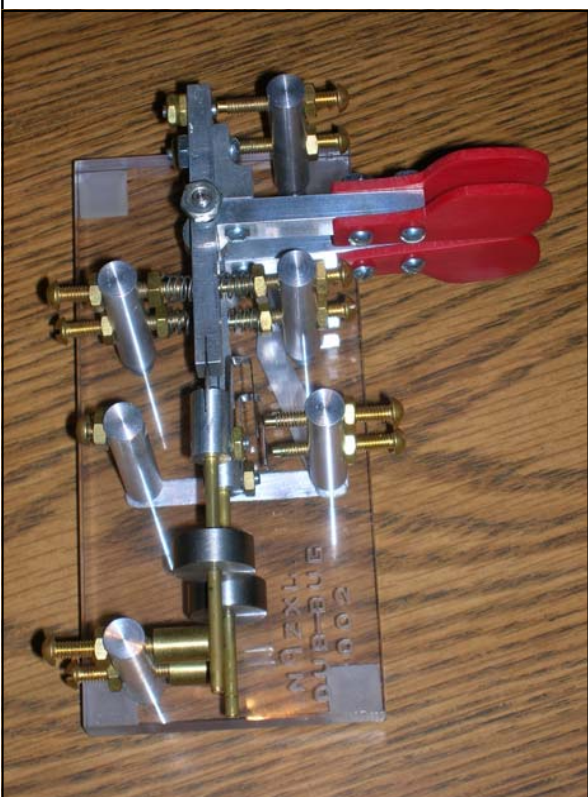
The bug is made of aluminum so it is very light. The base is made of Lexan and is extremely strong.

Brass screws are used throughout for contacts while the paddles are made of plastic. There are “no slip” feet attached to the Lexan base and prevent the bug from sliding around. Round weights are used for speed adjustment and simply slide along the brass arm.

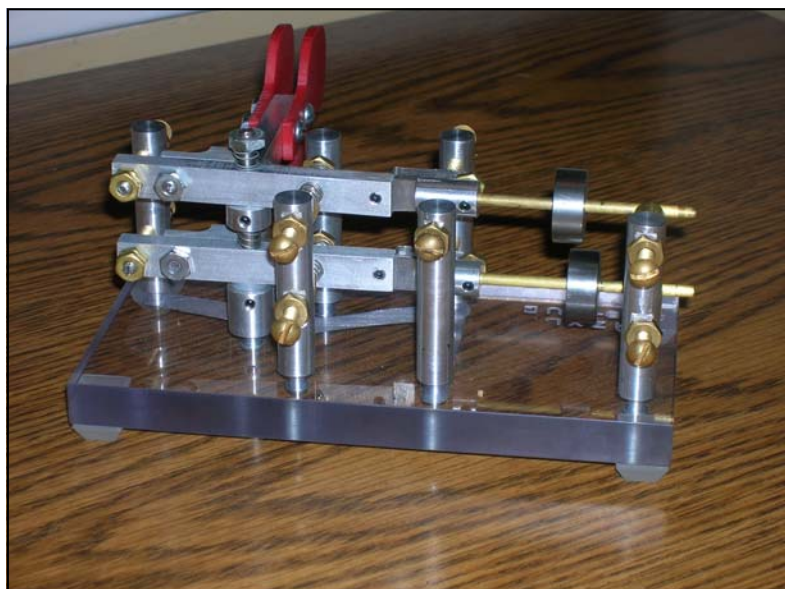
Dave plans to make a “new and improved” Dub Bug using all brass parts and mounting the bug on a finished wooden base. When all the details are worked out the Dub Bug will be offered for sale directly from N9ZXL.

The Dub Bug here is “prototype number two”, number one also had a straight key added to the base but is basically just the same as this one.

Oh yeah, did I mention that Dub Bug Number 2 is mine? Guess I forgot to mention that! I asked Dave if he



would sell me one of his prototypes and Dave graciously did. I plan to make great use of the Dub Bug in the SKCC monthly operating events. You can hear the Dub Bug on our “last Thursday of the month” bug night on our 10m cw gathering (28.050 MHz) at 8:00 PM.



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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 37th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September 14, 2014

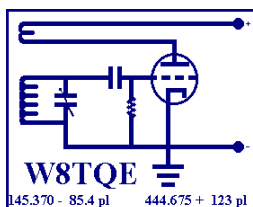
Hamfest Chair

Mark NU8Z@comcast.net

### AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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**First Class**