

The Ticker

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone. Will winter ever just go away? It keeps coming at us. Hopefully Spring will get here some day. I know in the middle of Summer I will be complaining about how hot it is. Can't help it.

The Marshall Hamfest was held on March 16th and the TMRA Hamfest was held on the 17th (St. Patrick's Day). Hope you got a chance to attend one or both of these shows. They were both great. Norm W8TTH and I didn't set up our tower hardware at either show, but did have folks call or email for us to bring up items for them and of course we did. We had a lot of fun talking with all of our friends at the shows and it was especially enjoyable for me as I am usually stuck at our table when we do set up. We did have a club table at Toledo and it was good to have somewhere to rest your feet when you weren't out admiring everything. There were plenty of seats available in the cafeteria area, if you didn't have a table and that was nice as well.

I can't think of anything going on in April as far as Ham-fests go, but the Michigan QSO party is in April and I am sure that Ted K8AQM or someone will have an article in this newsletter specifying the dates and other important information. Norm will be taking his annual trip to Pigeon Forge with the Maple City Wing group toward the end of the month and I am sure they will have a great time. Hopefully it has warmed up a little by then, so they won't get so cold on their way down there on the bikes.

Don't forget to check out the website at 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.

Don't forget the meeting on Monday, March 25th. See you there.

73s,
Ginny W8TTX

Finding Antique Radio Transceivers and playing with them! By N8KR

I must admit that I have always been intrigued by the old “Kenwood Twins.” You remember them: the T-599 and the R-599. They were interconnected by a special Kenwood cable allowing one to switch from operating transceive to operating split. Well, little did I know at the time when I was first licensed in 1978 that these radios were Kenwood's first to appear in the amateur radio market in America!

The first 599's appeared in 1970 under the name of Henry Radio from California. (They were the “guys” who took the Yaesu FT-200 and marketed it in America under their own name: Tempo One by Henry Radio.) Soon after, Kenwood opened their own brand name, “Trio Kenwood,” in the US and marketed the 599's aside from Henry Radio. Their version, the 599A was slightly improved with the microphone gain located on the front of the radio instead of being inside. The 599's lived on through the 1970's until early 1979. Their latest model, the 599D, had a gold face (the others were silver), and is the model I found in Wisconsin last year.

Having a fully transistorized receiver in the 1970's was quite a treat. We're so used to the instant, “on” but this receiver was one of the first. A flip of that switch and you have instant receive. Tweak the preselector for maximum gain and that R-599D is a hot little receiver. Once you select your mode, you can switch in the various filters including the 500Khz cw filter or you can simply select “auto” and when you change from cw to ssb, the filter will change from 500 to 2.5Khz. The cw filter is ok although not as *sharp* as the filters in my FT-1000mp or IC-751a. I found myself switching to the 2.5 for the weak signals in an SKCC sprint last fall. On ssb the receiver is fine with good receive audio. The noise blanker is adjustable but really does very little. The cool feature of this radio, though, is it's ability to operate split frequencies or you can choose to *transceive* on either the receiver or transmitter VFO. We may think this is nothing special, but in the 1970's it was *cutting edge*!

The transmitter, the T-599D, has the three tubes typical for this era: the 12BY7A driver and the two 6146B finals. Simply “tune for smoke” and you have 125 watts out. There is a tune position on the mode selector but mine has such little drive that I either key down the transmitter in cw or switch to am and hit the “send” button. The transmitter also allows for microphone gain adjustments along with “carrier gain” or output power adjustment.

Connecting the two radios requires a special Kenwood cable. (These cables go for over 100 bucks on Ebay and it is the same cable used to connect the R-820 with the TS-820.) The antenna connects to the T-599 and there is an rf cable connecting the T-599 to the R-599 receiver. There are also two speaker lugs to connect the matching S-599 speaker as seen in the photo.

If you carefully look at the band switches on each unit, you'll quickly discover they are not identical. While WWV is receive only for calibration purposes, the receiver has two additional bands not located on the transmitter: the 11 meter cb band and 160 meters! Hey, I'm ok with the 11m receive only but what's with 160? You old-timers will remember the 160 restrictions which were in effect when this radio came out. It's a shame that they didn't offer 160 transmit in the later “D” model.



Kenwood offered two additional options for the 599 radios: transverters for 2 meter and 6 meter operations. I have not operated or even seen ones with this option. Certainly another *cutting edge* aspect of this radio.

I seldom fire up the old Kenwoods. I have the MC-50 microphone and I'll flip it on ssb from time to time and make an occasional contact. After owning them for a short time the original fascination with them has passed. It's neat that I have a part of history in my shack but until I get more room, they will probably have to go. So, if you want to *fart* around with a neat old radio, let me know. These need a new home!

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...N8AMM can load his 12m yagi on 10m...with a good signal too?
 ...KG8CO and crew scored "big" in the CQWW 160 SSB Contest?
 ...it's amazing the explosion that happens from electrolytic capacitors blowing up? Ask K8AQM!
 ...KG8CO is now up to 130 countries worked on 160m?
 ...N8KR, K8KIC and K8AQM operated "multi-multi" from their homes using one call? Cool!
 ...KD8TTM Bill, has a new rig? A TS-520 sits in his shack with a random wire for an antenna?
 ...K8AQM has another K2/100? That makes three!
 ...thanks to Dale K8NKE, there are boxes of goodies to sort for club members at the meeting?
 ...thanks to Bill's (KD8TTM) son "Clinton," for getting K8AQM's computer problems fixed?
 ...it looks like Cletus K8TLT, will be taking the 3rd Sunday of the month for the Sunday night net?
 ...Dayton is very near? Do we have tickets on order? Hope the weather warms up!
 ...K8KIC has a couple of euchre sessions under his belt this winter?
 ...K8TI spent a long weekend in Vegas? He didn't come back broke either.
 ...K8AQM got his Collins 75A-1 and 32V-1 back after eight years of being repaired? No kidding!
 ...KG8CO's MLA-2500 blew the wall plug apart in the shop?
 ...N8KR enjoys "FARTING" around?
 ...the club room needs cleaning and re-ordering after the great electrical job done by Neil KC8DAR?
 ...the Michigan QSO Party is April 20? Noon to midnight.
 ...so far, we have been spared ice damage to local antennas? SO FAR!
 ...W8TTH bought three oscilloscopes in Toledo? He needed three?
 ...K8KIC couldn't find anything to buy in Toledo?
 ...K8UV has been checking into the 10m CW net with a pretty good signal lately?
 ...N8KR has a new SKCC cup and doesn't even know it?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur radio club board met at 7:00 PM February 25 2013 at the Civil Air Patrol building. Those present were: Ginny W8TTX, Larry W8LNR, Bob K2IBM, Norm W8TTH, Dick K8GX, Neil KC8DAR, and Bill KA8ARK. The board discussed the Sunday net, emergency disaster communications, classes, and Field-day. The board adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met on February 25, 2013 at the cap building, with 14 persons present. Willis Butts WB8NPI won the 50/50 drawing. The January minutes were approved as published in the Tickler by a motion by Norm W8TTH second by Larry W8LNR. The motion passed. The treasurers report by Ginny W8TTX showed a balance of \$6,975.30. A motion by Joe K8YZA second by Norm W8TTH to accept the report passed. The Sunday Net was brought up by Joe K8YZA and it was decided to continue to have the net on Sunday night at 8:00 PM with renewed effort on finding volunteers to run the net. Bob K2IBM notified us of some Red Cross training for radio operators, if interested see Bob K2IBM. The Marshall hamfest is scheduled for the 16th of March. Field day is scheduled for June and the Museum

Ship contest is scheduled for the first week in June. It was decided that band pass filters are needed for the club shack. Ken K8KIC second a motion by Ted K8AQM for Ted K8AQM to get cost. Dan Baker notified us that the antenna cables in the shack will be labeled soon. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Secretary Bill KA8ARK

Toledo Hamfest 2013

The last time I was at the Toledo hamfest was when it was in Maumee so it has been quite a few years. The hamfest has been taking place in Perrysburg at Owens Community College for some years now. Ken N8KR, talked me into attending this year with him and I am glad he did! The “new” place is large, clean and bright; my memory of the Maumee site was of a dark and dreary place.

It was a great time and anytime I am surrounded with radios and good friends I enjoy myself. Ken deals in selling reconditioned radios and I always have something “extra” in the shack I need to part with so we have no problem filling a table with “goodies”. You can see in the picture our table of items and it’s always fun to “bargain and dicker” over the price of an item, after all that is part of a hamfest! When it was time to call it a “fest” I assure you the table had a lot fewer items and both Ken and I had nice smiles on our faces. I don’t think I have ever been to a hamfest where Norm and Ginny have not set up “Norm’s Fabrication” table. Ginny told me this was just going to be a “pleasure” fest for them and no products would be there. Their excellent flier was available at the table along with our Adrian ARC hamfest fliers.

Good friends were well represented too. From our club Ken K8KIC and Phil K8HCL, were shopping. Phil managed to find a few “needed” items but Ken found neither an accordion nor any cashews! There were friends from Wauseon who have been to our club and several new friends Ken and I have met from Defiance since Ken recently moved there.

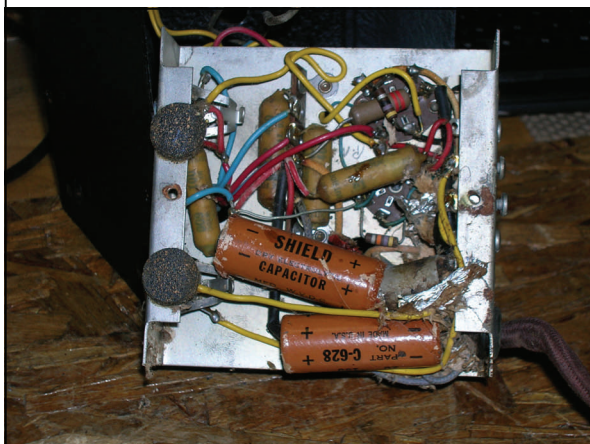
The bottom picture shows Ken and I with Larry K8TEZ who has a history with the Adrian ARC. Many years ago when the club use to have Field Day up on Prospect Hill Larry came and operated 2m

for the club. Larry’s wife was from Palmyra so Larry would always plan his visit around Field Day. Today Larry lives in the Cleveland area and is also a member of the Straight Key Century Club which many of the Adrian ARC members also belong to. Next month I’ll introduce you to another hobby of Larry’s; he is an “excellent” restore-er and re-builder of antique radios. These are the older radios when radio was a “new fad”. These radios are what our grandparents and even some great grandparents listened to. Larry also restores antique lamps, chairs, telephones and other furniture. Photos next month and more on Larry’s Palmyra connection.



Why You Need to Use a Variac on Old Equipment!

As you know, I enjoy “restoring” old equipment, I recently acquired a code practice oscillator that needed a cabinet re-paint and a general cleaning. A common issue with older equipment are “dried-out electrolytics”. Normally I ALWAYS run this old equipment on a variac and slowly build the voltage up in 48 hours which usu-



ally restores the electrolytic capacitors. I must have fallen asleep or something because after painting and cleaning this code practice oscillator I just plugged it in and turned it on.

Boy, what a mistake! If you never have been around a blown electrolytic it's a sound, smell and sight to behold! WHAM! BLAM! SMOKE! I had a shack filled with smoke, the insides of the electrolytic was all over my desk, coffee cup and tools! I had to open the shack and turn on the fan to clear the smoke/stink out! And this was just one of two electrolytics in the unit. You can see the “guts” of the capacitor/foil in the picture. It was lucky the chassis was “face down” when the explosion took place and inside the case!

So now to bring this unit back is going to take a lot more work; two new capacitors soldered in place, clean-up the under chassis and clean-up my work bench! Lesson is: ALWAYS use a variac on old gear before running it at full voltage!

Big Gains for the KG8CO 160m SSB Crew!

This year saw KG8CO, N8KR and KN8R operate in the CQWW 160m SSB contest from the KG8CO station. And what a year it was! Brian and crew crushed their last year score and beat the instate competition soundly. Brian had done a lot of extra work at the station and it sure paid off! Well done guys!

Here are the 2013 results:

1107 Q's 57 Sections 29 DX
score of 235,296 for 2013

For comparison here are the 2012 numbers:

930 Q's 58 Sections 11 DX
score of 140,216

73 de Brian, KG8CO

CQ CQ CQ

Are you a Red Cross disaster responder with a ham radio license, or interested in becoming one? If so, we would like to hear from you! One of the lessons learned from the Dexter tornado is that there are still many places where cell phones do not work. In the aftermath of the tornado, the chapter's MPSCS radios became a vital link between our shelters, vehicles and disaster headquarters. However, the limited number of MPSCS radios and frequencies available to us would not be enough in a larger emergency. We want to establish a team of amateur radio operators with training and experience in Red Cross disaster operations to supplement our communication capabilities during local disasters. Want to know more? Please contact our chapter emergency communications liaison, Mike Swartz, at redcross@mikeswartz.info.

President

Virginia Schutte, **W8TTX**

w8ttx@yahoo.com

Vice President

Bob Warwick, **K2IBM**

k2ibm@comcast.net

Secretary

Bill Groover, **KA8ARK**

billgro@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Mark Hinkleman, **NU8Z**

Cqnu8z@comcast.net

Executive Board

Neil Griffith, **KC8DAR**

njgriffith@verizon.net

Dick Denzel, **K8GX**

K8gx@tc3net.net

Norman Schutte, **W8TTH**

Norm@normsfab.com

Larry Lacy, **W8LNR**

W8LNR@aol.com

Editor Ted Rachwal

K8AQM

K8AQM@arrrl.net

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 2013

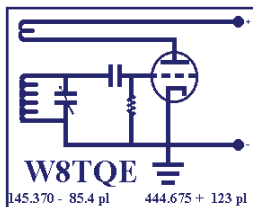
Hamfest Chair

Mark NU8Z@comcast.net

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

www.w8tqe.com

adrianarc@mailman.qth.net



Adrian Amateur Radio Club
Box 26
Adrian, MI 49221



First Class