

# The Tickler

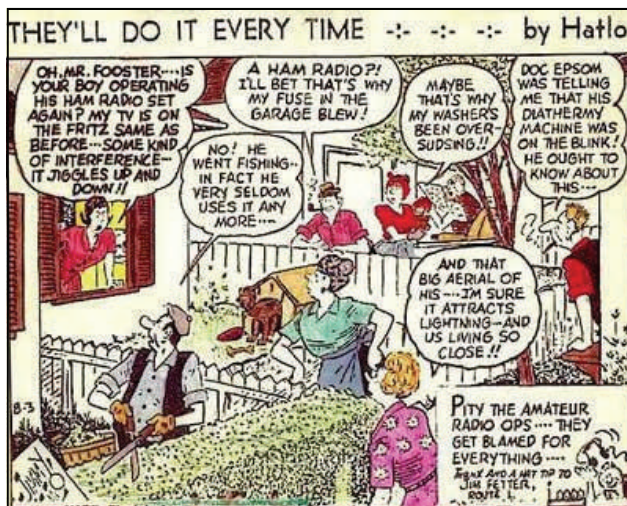
## From the Prez.....

Hello everyone. I wish winter was over already. It could have been a lot worse than it has, but I am still ready for some consistently warmer weather. Norm W8TTh and I did not visit any hamfests this month. We have both been too busy with our business and our jobs to even think about anything. Life sure passes you by when you are busy. Try not to let your life slip away, if you can help it. Make the most of your time and enjoy life. Now, if I could just follow my own words.

Norm went to his Pig Shoot this month out near Tecumseh and must have shot well enough to bring home some pork. There was a lot of snow that weekend, but he stayed in a heated tent with a bunch of other guys and I know he had a good time. I was busy as usual and didn't have a lot of time to miss him. It was however nice to have the whole bed to myself, but of course I still had to share it with my puppies. They tend to take up more room than Norm when they can spread out, but they don't steel the covers as much as he does.

Norm W8TTH and I will hopefully be attending the Marshall Hamfest and TMRA Hamfests in March. Marshall Hamfest will be held on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and TMRA will be the next day. They are usually both very nice shows and well attended.

I don't have a whole lot to say this month, but I do hope you can make it to the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. You may as well spend the time with all your friends at the club house. It will be cold anyway and all of our personalities will warm you up. Don't forget to check out the website at [www.w8tqe.com](http://www.w8tqe.com). I want to thank Bob K2IBM our webmaster for all he does with the upkeep of the site. I also want to thank Ted our Newsletter Editor for all the work he puts into The Tickler every month. You can show your support by sharing anything that may be of interest to the club or that will help out with our hobby. They also like humorous stories as well. See you at the meeting. 73s, Ginny W8TTX



## Gear For Sale de K8LAR

Kenwood TS-450 SAT SSB Filter 1.8 KHZ + CW filter 250 HZ	\$500.00
Samlex switching power supply	\$80.00
MFJ 1407B Keyer	\$40.00
GAP "Hear IT" DSP speaker	\$90.00
Kenwood MC-80 desk microphone	\$75.00
Contact "Bud" ... K8LAR@frontier.com	

# Finding Antique Radio Transceivers and playing with them!

By N8KR

Back in the late 1970's and early 1980's, two Japanese companies were competing for our radio business. Kenwood had their very successful line of 520/530's and 820/830's. Yaesu had their 101 analog series and had introduced their 901DM and 101ZD digital line. Both Kenwood and Yaesu still had the 6146B tube finals in these radios. It was Yaesu who first came out with the 100% solid state 100 watt transceiver. (excluding the American made Ten-Tec or Atlas) This first solid state, non tune HF radio was the FT-107.

I remember back in 1980 when my friend Curt, WB0FAX, purchased one new. He lived in St. Paul, MN. I lived about 75 miles away in Eau Claire, WI. We had daily cw skeds. He had been using his old FT-101B and I had my Tempo One. Within a few days of his new acquisition, I was in his shack playing with his new rig. It was pretty neat not having to tune after changing bands. There was a "width" knob for an IF pass band that was very effective removing interference. There was a memory button for remembering a frequency, useful in split operations. Of course, having a digital display on top of the other wonderful features made this rig a real "dream machine."

This past October I found a Yaesu FT-107M along with a speaker and an external VFO. It was the typical "white faced" model. (Yaesu also manufactured the rig with a grey face.) Here's what it looked like:



This was a later model, the "M" version which had the WARC band addition. Looking at its features, you wouldn't think it was a 30+ year old radio. Playing with this rig was pure delight. The receiver was every bit as sensitive as my 1000mp. I found the noise blanker superior to the "mp". You had the option of switching in the 600hz cw filter from the front of the radio. Its operation was perfect and the accompanying width and notch controls totally eliminated qrm. It had 11 memories which was quite easy to program and split operation with them was as simple as pushing a button. SSB operation was a snap with the Yaesu MD-1 microphone and audio reports were excellent. The external vfo was simple to operate. Even though it

had an analog display, it would show a digital display on the radio. It was cool watching the frequency change on split operations between transmit and receive! This radio was so good, I had a difficult time parting with it! The only negative I had was the fact that the radio was big and heavy. This was the era before our nice, switching power supplies. I'm guessing their fading popularity is because of their weight.

I see these radios sell on Ebay for three to four hundred dollars. I think they're a "steal" for that price considering their operation. I guess hams like the newest and greatest . . . but this rig is truly a gem! I'm glad I had the opportunity to play with one again!

## AARC Club Gossip! .....

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

...N8AMM's first contact with his home brew 17m yagi was KH2L (Guam)? Barefoot too!  
 ...KG8CO has 125 countries worked on 160m?  
 ...K8KIC worked both K8NP and WE8Z on cw while they were in Florida and he was K3Y/8?  
 ...W8TQE has another certificate to hang on the wall?  
 ...would you believe N8AMM's "new" 17m yagi now has wind damage?  
 ...N8KR enjoys "FARTING"? Really?  
 ...KG8CO and K8AQM are planning their next south Pacific trip for 2014?  
 ...K8AQM owns a QRP rig(Heathkit HW-8)? Ugh!  
 ...K8XXX will operate three boat anchor rigs in the next SKS sprint?  
 ...K8UV enjoys his Sigma V.1? He works all kinds of DX!  
 ...KG8CO and team worked the CQ160 SSB Contest?  
 ...K8AQM has a beautiful Heathkit "Apache" transmitter, anyone have a "Comanche" receiver?  
 ...NU8Z is darn good on a straight key?  
 ...KC8DAR and company will be rewiring our ham shack?  
 ...Marshall and Toledo hamfest are quickly coming, that means Dayton is close!  
 ...when K8AQM is on the air his call lights up? Hee hee!  
 ...K8AQM just bought his third Elecraft K2/100?  
 ...N8KR has some great gear for sale? Need something, ask Ken.  
 ...K8LAR is looking for a K2? Any help would be appreciated.

## AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio club board met at the CAP building on January 28, 2013. President Ginny W8TTX called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following persons present. Ginny W8TTX. Larry W8LNR, Neil KC8DAR, Norm W8TTH, Bob K2IBM, and Bill KA8ARK. Items discussed were: Upgrading the electrical circuit in the Ham shack. A bid was received from Neil KC8DAR to upgrade the shack, so there will be 2 dedicated circuits for \$1,463.31. This proposal will be presented to the membership for consideration. A list compiled by Mark NU8Z, of known Hams in the area who are not members of the club is to be circulated to the membership to determine if further recruiting efforts could or should be made. A donation of \$55 was to be recommended to the membership for the Michigan QSO party. The board meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

The Adrian Amateur Radio club met at the CAP building at the Lenawee County Airport on January 28, 2013 with 17 persons present and was called to order by president Ginny W8TTX at 7:00PM. The minutes of the December meeting, as published in the Tickler, were approved by a Motion from Norm W8TTH, second by Don N8AMM. The Treasurer's report was presented by Ginny W8TTX and showed a balance of \$6,950.10. Motion by Norm W8TTH second by Cory KD8QHD to accept the report passed. There was no old business. We need someone to do the net on February 3 at 8:00 PM. The 440 repeater is not running but is expected to be back on line soon. The Club received a letter of thanks for their donation to the Civil Air Patrol. A Motion to pay \$55 to the Michigan QSO party by Ken K8KIC second by Don N8AMM motion passed. A Motion authorizing Neil KC8DAR to go ahead with electrical update to the shack at a cost of \$1,463.32. Motion by Norm second by Cory KD8QHD second passed. The Monday night group is still meeting even though many have deserted to the sunny clime down South. Dale K8NKE called Ginny W8TTX and has some equipment to donate to the club. The meeting was adjourned by a motion from Norm W8TTH, second by Don N8AMM.

Secretary Bill KA8ARK



## **There is a lot going on at AARC—join the fun!**

**By Ken Filter, K8KIC and Bob Warwick, K2IBM**

At our last club meeting we were discussing the 2 meter ARES Net on Sunday evenings. The discussion brought up questions about some of the other activities that regularly take place involving the club. Ken was able to reel off several nets and other activities that may not be familiar to all club members. Bob asked Ken to put them in writing so we could include them on the club website as well as put them in the Tickler. Below are some additional ways you can have fun as a member of AARC.

Monday nights the CAP building is open from 7:00 p.m. until approximately 8:30 p.m., except the last Monday of the month which is the regular club meeting time. This is a good opportunity to get to know club members other than over-the-air contacts. Discussions range from interesting aspects of amateur radio to whatever is on someone's mind. The club station will be available and is a good way to try your hand at some HF operation. Experienced club members will be happy to show you how to operate the club station.

Tuesday and Thursday nights CW club nets can be found on 10 meters. Specifically, the CW nets run from 8 to 9 P.M. on 28.050 MHZ. On Tuesday nights, the net members usually use keyers, but anything can be used. On Thursday nights, straight keys are usually used, so the speed is much slower. The net is happy to slow down if someone is still developing their CW skills. The last Thursday of the month everyone is encouraged to try their hand at using a bug. The CW nets are run in round table format

Also, on Tuesday and Thursday nights there is a club phone net on 10 meters. The phone net follows right after the CW net, beginning at 9 o'clock and ending at 10 P.M. That net can be found on 28.328 Mhz, plus or minus QRM. The phone net is completely informal with people using break-in or VOX to make comments.

Finally, on Sunday night at 8:00 p.m. there is the ARES net on 145.37 MHZ 2 meter repeater. This is a directed net which helps club members become comfortable operating in a format that might be used during emergencies. Different people are strongly encouraged to take net control in order to gain practice running this kind of an operation. The net is a good time to test portable communication rigs that might be used under emergency situations. The time to find out that you can't hit the repeater with your HT is NOT when a tornado is spotted in the field!

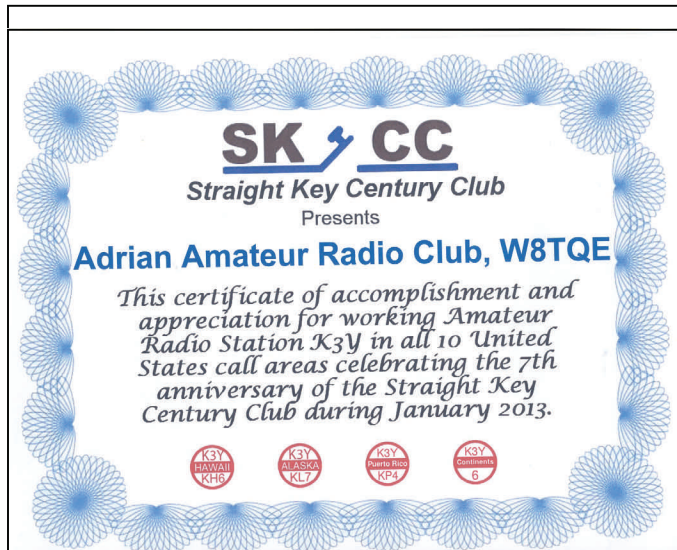
Everyone will get more enjoyment out of being members of the AARC if you take part in some of the activities other than coming to the monthly club meeting. Get active, come on out to the Monday eyeball sessions, and try out some of the nets. Being an active member of AARC is fun!



## KB8ECG and SKCC

Another Adrian ARC member has recently become an SKCC (Straight Key Century Club) member. Dave KB8ECG was part of the W8TQE K3Y/8 happening and so impressed he decided to sign up for SKCC while right there in the shack! Dave made several contacts with K3Y/8 W8TQE the very next day and several other stations that day. Welcome to the club Dave and we hope you'll join us again.

SKCC is free to join and currently has over 1200 members. If you're a cw fan and enjoy a bit of straight key work check out [www.skcc.com](http://www.skcc.com).



## Grand Sweep for W8TQE

Every year for the entire month of January the SKCC celebrates its birthday with station operating as "K3Y/#". All ten US districts, KL7 and KH6 plus all six continents have stations operating as K3Y. Members enjoy chasing the various K3Y stations to work all of these districts and continents looking for the Grand Sweep". N8AMM and K8AQM operated as W8TQE and together "worked them all" resulting in this nice piece of wall paper for the club station. The basic certificate is for the 10 districts and there are endorsements for KL7, KH6, KP4 and the number of continents worked.



## K8KIC's Noise

Ken K8KIC has been plagued with noise that seriously disrupted his radio activity. NU8Z and KG8CO to the rescue! Mark and Brian using a small radio and NU8Z built antenna tracked Ken's noise to a house in his neighborhood having a very poor ADT alarm system. After a letter and a phone call the neighbor became aware of the noise and cooperated with Ken allowing Ken to continue his radio hobby and the neighbor to secure his home through the night.

Well done guys!



## The W8TQE K3Y8 Event



The Adrian Amateur Radio Club each year participates in the SKCC K3Y event. The K3Y/8 operation is staged the same as a Field Day event except for no "emergency power". Using club members' resources, a multi station operation is setup so that three or four stations can operate at the same time on different bands. Locals and friends are invited to come and "play" having fun making QSOs, eating well and laughing at each other. There are plenty of laughs, plenty QSOs and even more food! When the operation this year was over 620 K3Y/8 QSOs were uploaded to the master log.

We operated all bands from 6m through 160m and both straight keys and bugs were in operation depending on the operators choice. The rigs were an FT-1000MP/Alpha 374A, K2/100 es Alpha 374A, another K2/100 es Alpha 374, finally a TS-570 for 6m was used. Computers were used at each station, lots of wires and aluminum were in the air for support.

The operators in attendance were:

K8UV 2250T AC8W 2813 AC8JF KG8CO 6362 K8KS 4444T  
W8IQ 7557 N8CC 7541 NU8Z N8AMM 3198T NF8J  
N8KR 7559T WA8ICK 9962 K9AAA 270T KC8LTL 4197T  
K8KIC 2938 K8AQM 1629T KU8L 5532 N8LJ 9954 and KB8ECG  
10169

We had plenty of food, chili, ham sandwiches, snacks, soda, nuts and even some "CW wine". As usual we all consumed more calories than QSOs made but we all had a great time. Thanks to all of you who worked us on many bands. A special thanks to AC8W our resident cartoonist!

73,

The Adrian Amateur Radio,  
W8TQE 2944T





## ZF2TA K3Y/NA Adventure 2013

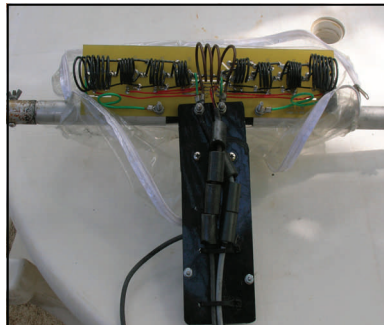
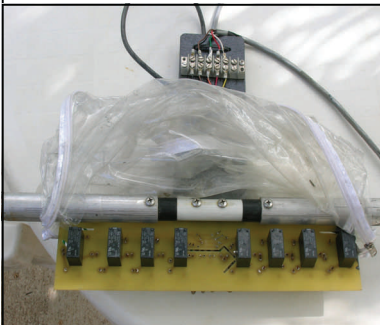
With only five days left of the K3Y event my wife and I headed for the Grand Cayman Islands. Amateur radio is a “severe” passion of mine and my wife understands this so with her “blessing” I was “allowed” to bring my K2/100, my Force 12 Sigma V and the other necessary “goodies” to setup a station for the remaining five days of K3Y. You can see the station setup below. Thanks to Ron AC2C, I was able to schedule my operating as ZF2TA K3Y/NA. Although the internet connection was only available regularly at the pool and bar (boy it was tough to send in logs!), I was able to get my logs daily to Ron.

The Sigma V is a five band (10-20m) antenna with switchable (from inside the shack) bands using coils and relays and is actually a vertical “dipole”, not a vertical as there are no radials and it is center fed. You can see the center board with the relays on one side and the coils on the other. You simply “tune” (via squeezing/stretching) coils and the antenna will cover the entire band! The plastic bag in the picture was used to cover the switching incase it rained. Force 12 uses a big heavy PVC pipe but I opted for light weight. You can see the overall height of the Sigma V is only 11 feet and that includes the two foot ground stake. Even in a lush jungle area the antenna performs very well. I have used it on all my DX trips with great results for such a small footprint. I used RG-174 micro coax as it takes up little room and handles 100 watts easily! I also had an inverted V for 30m and the apex was only 15 feet up in the tree and it seemed to work very well!



My first QSO was with George K4GM (who quickly spotted me on the K3UK board) and my last, 225 Qs later, was with Dan W9DLN. My best DX was with John VK4TJ (he is amazing!) and I worked all K3Y/\* except K3Y/7 (K9ZMD really tried to pull me through but couldn't) and K3Y/9, would-

n't you know W9DLN my last Q and he wasn't K3Y/9. The last QSO made with Dan was two minutes before the event ended.



From our club I worked K8KIC, K8UV, N8AMM, KC8ITC and N8KR (five bands!). I also worked Jan K1ND, Bob K8MXC, Wes AC8JF, Lee N8LJ...all friends.

Here is the front of the QSL that is being printed. .

Thank you all for pulling me through and making the trip so much fun!

73,

Ted K8AQM/ZF2TA





## KG8CO Scores Big!

As mentioned here in the “Tickler” Brian, KG8CO has put a major effort into his 160m station: full quarter wave insulated vertical, 126 quarter wave radials, 10 beverage receiving antennas and now the ability to listen with two radios on the 160m band. This past January saw the running of the CQWW 160m CW Contest and KG8CO and friends were at the key. The results were great and Brian and crew

made a giant leap forward in the contest scene. Using one radio as a “run station” and the second radio as a spotting source plus packet, the team made 1275 QSOs during the contest. All states were worked plus eight Canadian provinces; that means in one weekend KG8CO qualified for WAS on 160m. But that’s not all, 44 DX countries were worked during the contest.

Four operators ran the station; Brian KG8CO, Mark NU8Z, Ken N8KR and Lee N8LJ. Since 160m is basically a “night-time” activity, it was a two man operation with NU8Z and N8KR running the first night and KG8CO and N8LJ running the second night.

All equipment worked flawlessly and of course Brian was extremely pleased with the performance of the station and the operators.

Of course the big challenge on 160m is to beat the crew at the N8CC station and that is a huge challenge; they are the standard that everyone reaches for. In this event the KG8CO station beat the N8CC station! N8CC had 1155 QSOs and 331,380 points while KG8CO had 1275 QSOs and 414,201 points! A great job and victory won by four great operators and a super 160m station! Well done guys.

But the battle continues, when you read this the two stations will again have gone head-to-head in the CQWW 160 SSB Contest. Last year KG8CO lost to N8CC but things may be different this year.



That’s Ken N8KR who was thrilled to work China



Lee N8LJ at the “run” station working the pile-ups!



Mark NU8Z at the multiplier station, checking for DX



Brian KG8CO at the run station the second night



## 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 15, 2013

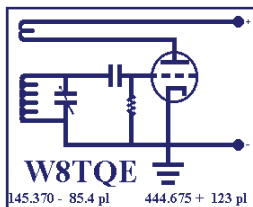
Hamfest Chair

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**