

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Burrrrrrr!!! Hopefully it won't stay so cold all winter. We already have enough snow as well. I hope you are all doing well this winter so far.

We won't be having a post Christmas Potluck this year at the club as we didn't make any plans to do so.

I am on a two week layoff from my jobs and it has caused me to forget what day of the week it is. As I am writing this letter it is on a Thursday and I thought the meeting was tomorrow. It seems like every day is a weekend day. Is that what it will be like when I get to retire? It makes the time go by too fast.

Norm W8TTH and I did not attend any hamfests this month. There is one in Hazel Park in January. I don't know if we are going to attend that one or not.

Norm and I hope you all had a great Christmas this year and got to spend time with your families. Also, we will wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR as we may not see if you don't make it to the meeting on December 29th. If you get time off from your work, enjoy yourselves. Life is too short not to. Besides you can always procrastinate and do it next year. We had a good time with the grandkids. They sure can rip and open packages faster than fast to see what is inside only to move to the next package. All that time spent wrapping them. It is just simply amazing.

Don't forget to check out the website at 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.

73,

Ginny W8TTX

Experimenter to Honor Early Wireless Pioneers with Longwave Transmissions

As he has over the past several years, Brian Justin, WA1ZMS/4 — an active participant in the ARRL's WD2XSH 600 meter experimental project — will transmit voice and music on 486 kHz as WG2XFQ on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and again on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Transmissions will begin at 0001 UTC and end at 2359 UTC.

N8KR/4

Ken N8KR, is in Florida until early January and has been operating as /4. Ken has a Kenwood TS-450 a Backyard mounted vertical and a couple of dipoles. He was impressed with how well his setup worked in the CQWW CW Contest. Ken has been working very hard with collecting QSOs from SKCC

members to apply to his quest for the highest ranking operator award in the Straight Key Century Club.

It's hard to look at that station and know that Ken has to have a fan to keep himself cool while in Florida while the rest of us are freezing! It hurts to get those 80 degree daily weather reports from Ken!



Koffee, Keys and Cooties!

That's Dave KC8ITC, and Bud K8LAR examine a "cootie" that belongs to Dave. If I told someone I had a cootie or several cooties some people would run away while others would want to see, feel and touch them! If you're a CW man you would fall in the latter group. A "cootie" key a cross between a straight key and a bug (hmm, cw guys like cooties and bugs?). Picture two straight keys back to back while on their sides and you slap each side alternately to send your cw...that's how a cootie or "side swiper" (as they sometimes are called) works.

KC8ITC, K8LAR and K1ND often meet at the Saline Tim Horten's and "gossip".....well, at least discuss important issues. Anyway Dave brought his cootie for the guys to examine and Jan K1ND sent these great photos. This is a very old cootie, possibly pre 1900 and was made by the Burnell Company who made many fine sounders, straight keys, cooties and bugs up through WWII.

You can see and imagine how a cootie works side-to-side from the lower picture. Dave gave a brief history of the his cootie as follows:

"My history with the key is brief...it is a gift from an old friend who said that he picked it up at a local sale. Jan and Bud both thought that it looked rather old...and definitely was made by the J.H. Bunnell com. which began the production about 1880s."

Now the question is, should he keep it as is or polish it up and make that brass shine and the wooden base glow? I vote for the shine and glow!



AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...Don KD8SKO is wracking up those QSOs in the SKCC?
 ...Bob K2IBM is thinking about joining the SKCC now he knows it's not the "Silent Key Century Club?"
 ...W8TQE now has five bandpass filters, 80 through 10m for the club station?
 ...KD8TTM has his Tec Tec radio now on PSK?
 ...KD8VSQ has been monitoring ARP and planning to upgrade next month?
 ...Ken K8KIC built a stand for his Ft. Wayne keyboard purchase and has sold both keyboard and stand?
 ...KD8TTM Bill, built a new operating desk?
 ...K8AQM has a "Stink Alarm?"
 ...WE8Z Denny, thinks he's freezing solid? (You can head south shortly Denny)
 ...Don KD8SKO's wife, makes great carmels...and everything else too?
 ...W8TQE will be active at the club (2 stations) January 22nd 7 PM-9 PM as K3Y/8? Come join us!
 ...Neil K8NP has a vertical mounted now at his Florida home and is loud on 20m?
 ...K8KIC still gets an occasional eurche game in?
 ...KD8SKO is now practicing his cw with a "bug?"
 ...Brian KG8CO has an 8 element listening array for 160m? WOW!
 ...WA8TVN Dan, "almost" has his TS-530 back on the air?
 ...Looks like Don KD8SKO is getting a TS-520S?
 ...K8AQM has added a 60m dipole to the antenna farm?
 ...SKN (aka Straight Key Night) is coming soon? January 1 00:00 UTC.
 ...N8TIB Allan is back in town for awhile?

AARC Club Minutes

Board Minutes

Present were: Dick-K8GX, Mark-NU8Z, Ginny-W8TTX, Norm-W8TTH, Larry-W8LNR, Bob-K2IBM

Discussed: Fort Wayne hamfest, repeater progress, and the board election

Meeting

Roll call 23 present.

50/50 was won by Don KC8OGW.

Minutes approved on a motion by Norm W8TTH, 2nd by Larry W8LNR

Treasurer's Report approved on a motion by Bruce KB8OXK and 2nd by Dick K8GX

Items discussed: The Fort Wayne hamfest, there was no more information regarding the new repeaters, Ted K8AQM sold the World War I Radio at the Fort Wayne hamfest and brought the club \$400, check was written for our yearly donation to the Civil Air Patrol for use of the building. A motion was passed to purchase band pass filters with a motion by Ken K8KIC, 2nd by Norm W8TTH. Ted K8AQM is to order and install the filters once they arrive. Norm W8TTH is also supposed to check on the PL of the repeater.

Meeting started at approx. 7:30 p.m. And was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Program: Ted K8AQM presented a program on the YJORK Dxpedition.

Tracking Down RFI

Several years ago my wife's laptop had a cord go bad on it. As I was looking around on the net for a new plug, I found a whole power supply new on eBay for five bucks shipped from China. What a deal! It worked fine, and since I never do anything on 75m nor 40m for that matter, I didn't know that there was a problem. But when my high school buddies decided to make a schedule so that we could all talk to one another, 75m was the band to use at night to have good propagation between Michigan, Wisconsin, and Florida all at the same time. That's when I discovered that I had a 20 over S9 noise problem on the low end of 75m.

It was all over the house, radiating from my network wires, phone wires, and most of all power lines—across all circuits by capacitive and inductive coupling. It even was interacting with my network switch cause it to generate harmonics of its own! It was S6 when I was parked outside of my house on my mobile rig. What a puzzle! With the help of Ken's (k8kic) portable radio that could tune 75m, I carefully went around the house and found the noise was strongest by my wife's laptop. I unplugged the power supply and ran the computer on battery—no noise. My five dollar bargain was better than a spark coil! Gretchen was very interested in what was going on, so I explained that the power supply was supposed to suppress all of that noise. I showed her the bulge in the power cord where the toroids were located. She said they probably were just lumps of plastic—we got a magnet and she was right!!! There was absolutely no noise suppression in the power supply, in spite of the fake labels! I went down and checked the receiver and had only an S8 noise level. I turned off the florescent lights in the shack and I had an S1 noise level. One of the fixtures was not grounded to the station ground—or anything else. Now I am looking at an S1 noise level and hearing a lot of stations!

Because the power supply was putting about a quarter of a volt spikes on the AC power line, it caused the RFI to be everywhere. It was 20 over S9 when I walked past the refrigerator! Ken's radio has an RF gain control, so I could attenuate the signal enough to differentiate between power line, network cable and telephone cable radiation and zero in on the actual source. I estimate that there are potential RF sources in my house of between 100 and 125 devices. Many of them radiate RFI for a couple of feet, but not enough to get into the station receiver. It sure was easier to find RFI 50 years ago!!!

Many thanks to Ken and Mark for their help.

Bob, K2IBM

K8XXX Multi-Multi Team

I am the trustee for K8XXX, the call of the Eastern Michigan Contest Club and number 8577 in the Straight Key Century Club. Each month the SKCC has a two hour straight key sprint so in December



K8AQM, K8KIC, NU8Z and KD8SKO operated as K8XXX from K8AQM. Our goal was to work 50 special stations to achieve a "tribune" award which allows us to say our SKCC number is "8577T", a big honor in the SKCC! We worked 20m, Mark NU8Z was the operator, 40m K8KIC and K8AQM there while Don KD8SKO ran 80m. The bands were in very poor conditions but we managed to work 83 stations and to work 52 of the needed 50 stations for our "T" award.

Our goal was accomplished but it's always fun to work as a team and especially with friends! On January 17th we plan to work at the club station running W8TQE, come join us!

160 Receiving is Serious at KG8CO!

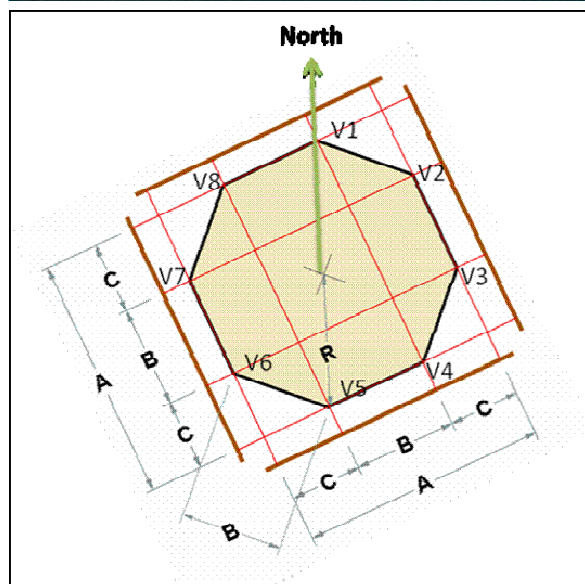
Brian KG8CO, is very serious about working DX and contesting on 160m. We all agree Brian has an excellent set of beverage listening antennas; he has put many hours of work into them and they “hear” like nothing the rest of us have....but! Brian says they are OK but can be better! Below you can see the “new and improved” listening antennas Brian is building for 160m. The eight 24 ft vertical array is made by



Hi-Z Antennas and is model: Hi-Z-4-8PLV2-113 with 113 foot diameter spacing. Imagine an array in your yard like the first picture of the array in Brian's yard! Brian has the realestate for this system but it still is very impressive. The layout of the antennas is shown in the diagram below with the propper angles and the control system in the center. Vertical mounting is shown in the pictures as they are mounted to 4x4 beams, the switching boxes are also shown there in Brian's basement. The control box uses a rotary switch and lights for antenna selection.



As of this writing Brian hasn't finished the system but it will be done by the end of January! Watchout N8CC, KG8CO is hot on your trail!



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@arrl.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 and Thursday 10 Meter CW Chat at 8:00 p.m. on 28.050 +/- QRM
Tuesday and Thursday 10 Meter SSB 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

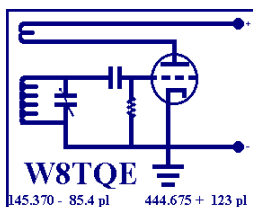
Hamfest Chair

Mark NU8Z@comcast.net

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

www.w8tqe.com

adrianarc@mailman.qth.net



Adrian Amateur Radio Club
Box 26
Adrian, MI 49221



First Class