

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone. Well the weather hasn't been as nice to us this past month. It has been cold, cold, real cold! Even the people in Florida have had it colder than normal, but at least their temperatures are livable. Oh, well we live in Michigan. We should expect it to be cold and nasty, but that doesn't mean we have to like it.

Last month the Ted (K8AQM) and Dave (K8AA) program presentation went well. They presented some great information on the Sigma V Vertical Antenna and shared some great photos and stories. I next time they should take lessons from the natives on how to use their feet to climb the trees and put up their own lines. Ha ha! I especially liked the laundry photos.

February's program will be presented by Hank (K8DD). He will be bringing us information on his latest Dxpedition. We welcome him to the club.

This year's Technician classes started on January 20th. We had 7 new prospective hams join the group to learn what they need to do to become amateur operators. I would like to thank all the club members that have showed up during the classes to show their support and participate in the discussions and teaching. It is greatly appreciated by myself and I am sure the new students. They need all the information and expertise they can get from everyone. It also shows the new students that ham radio is fun and that our club members are fun people who enjoy their hobby and camaraderie with everyone involved.

We have had several people volunteer to help teach the classes, but **WE STILL CAN USE YOUR HELP**. Don't let them have all the fun. There is always room for other instructors. Dick (K8GX) has drawn up a syllabus showing the dates and topics of discussion for the classes. He has done a great job getting the classes organized. Please contact him if you are willing to help.

Norm and I went to the Hazel Park hamfest on January 19th. It was real cold that day, but there were still a lot of people there. We saw Hank (K8DD). I rattled his brain and reminded him he was our program for February. It was a pretty good hamfest, but like last year it wasn't quite as big as usual. We did sell a few things and of course bought more things, but that is what hamfests are for. Overall we had a good time. There are a couple of hamfests in February we may attend, but most are too far away to travel in the winter. March will bring the Marshall and TMRA hamfests that I know we won't miss.

I would like to remind people that the Adrian Amateur Radio club has a new website. It is w8tqe.com and Andy (WA8UWQ) has done a fine job setting it up for us. You can still open the old site, but I believe everything is moved to the new site now and it runs a lot faster than the old one. Please stop in and check it out and let Andy know your thoughts.

That is all for now. Hope to see you at the meeting.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

The Ticker

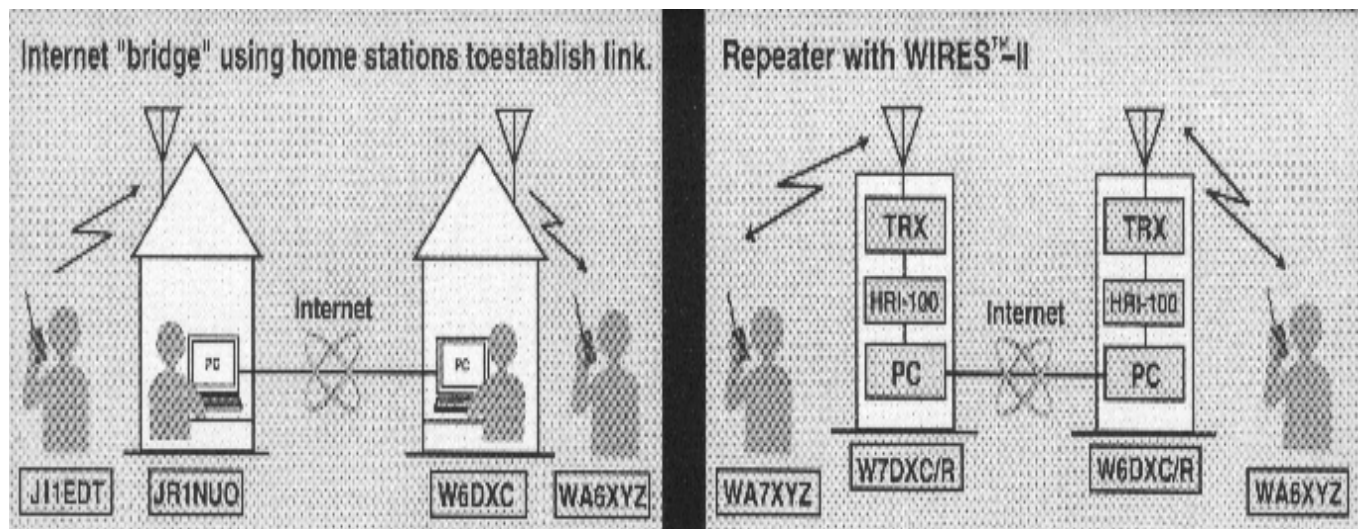
Repeater Information Sought

It has been requested by several of the new members that we advise new members on the use of our phone patch on the 2m repeater. Since this paper is published on the web, it didn't seem like a good idea to announce the controls and commands here in the paper. Perhaps it would be a good idea to ask Ken K8KIC to say a few words on how one goes about using the phone patch, slot numbers and touch tone controls. We use to have some nifty little cards printed up that told these controls and could be taped to the 2m rig for easy access.

And while I'm into the world of vhf and uhf, has anyone out there out the system known as "WIRES-II?" Several months ago my friend Shozo JH3TXR(KF8TW) asked me if our club was into "WIRES-II." Aside from the smart remarks that almost all the members had wire antennas and ground radials, I had no idea what he was talking about. Since then I have done some checking and here is a brief outline of what "WIRES-II" is all about.

1. WIRES-II uses DTMF signaling to establish a bridge, using the internet, from your repeater or home station to another "WIRES-II" equipped station anywhere in the world. No proprietary tones or connection formats are used, so any manufacturer's radio equipped with a DTMF encoding keypad may be used to bring up the internet link.
2. At the repeater sight, a personal computer is connected to the HRI-100 Wires-II, Interface Box(the box is made by Yaseu), which serves as a command and audio-patching controller for the internet bridge to your computer. Either a dial-up connection, or high speed line such as a DSL or ISDN line may be used for connecting to the internet.
3. The flexibility of the WIRES-II concept allows you to configure the system to allow on-the-fly selection of linked or non-linked communications. Therefore, in fast moving emergency communications situations where both local coordination and long distance reporting are required, WIRES-II allows local communications to be interspersed between linked transmissions. And because WIRES-II uses voice-recording technology as a buffer, WIRES-II calls will never interrupt a conversation in progress on a distant repeater.
4. WIRES-II provides two operating network concepts. Up to ten repeaters and/or home stations may join together to form a "Sister Radio Group" for closed network operations, ideal for emergency, school, or sister-city groups using a single DTMF digit. And the host Wires-II server also maintains a world-wide listing of repeaters operating in the "FRG" mode ("Friends" Radio Group"), any of whom you may call using a six-digit DTMF string to establish a link.

Below are a couple of diagrams showing the WIRES-II internet bridge...more on page 4



AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that....

...WA8UWQ has really developed a super web sight that has a pictorial history of our club?

...K8XXX still has no rf links but works great via the internet?

...WE8Z and the guys are still meeting on Wednesdays and are looking for great projects to build?

...W8CFP is off to Hawaii ... AGAIN!

...No one knows more about mods to the K2 than K8AA?

...W8TTH has his shop all snuggy and warm and ready for business?

...K8DD and AC8W are coming to town ? Lockup your daughters, hide your wives and secure you beer!

...K8AQM needs ideas and articles for The Tickler....please!

...it would be nice if some of you six meter types would tell us something about what's going on ?

...K8AA can probably tell you the days and weeks until Dayton...ask him!

...NU8Z is working on the MI QSO Party team for 2003 already?

...160m is a great band to rag chew on these days?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio club board was called to order at 19:00 hours on January 3, 2003, by President Ginny W8TTX. The meeting took place at the Civil Air Patrol building with the following persons present: Ginny W8TTX, Dick K8GX, Neil KC8DAR, Ted K8AQM, Eric K8JWV, Dave K8AA, Andy WA8UWQ, Art KC8GTA, Norm W8TTH, and Bill KA8ARK. We received a bill for liability insurance in the amount of \$500. The board recommended payment. Andy WA8UWQ found a host for our web site for \$5.00 per month, and will proceed to switch over to the new site in the near future. The Civil Air Patrol needs an Hf rig that operates on their new frequencies and has a high stability crystal. The board recommended that the club purchase the new crystal and install it in the Kenwood 570 for use by qualified CAP members. The cost to be less than \$200. The board recommended a social Saturday to be held on february 22. It was reported that Cletus K8TLT and Norm W8TTH have volunteered to maintain the repeater in the absence of Neil K8NP. The board adjourned at 19:30 hours.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 19:30 hours by President Ginny W8TTX with 29 persons present. Roll call was by callsign. Andy WA8UWQ made a motion to accept the December minutes as published in the Tickler, the motion was seconded by Harold WA8QPS. Motion passed. Dave K8AA presented the treasurer's report which showed a balance of \$3,966.49. Motion by Andy WA8UWQ to accept the treasurer's report second by Eric K8JWV. Motion passed. There was no new business. It was reported that we need volunteers to teach the beginner classes which will begin January 20, and a list was passed around for volunteers. A letter was read from the Mad River club thanking us for our support of their QSO party last year. Joe K8YZA recommended membership in "Races" since there is a possibility that only members of "Races" will be allowed to operate if war is declared. Training is required and will be scheduled later this year. A motion was made by Bob K2IBM to pay premium for liability insurance (\$500), second by Eric K8JWV. Motion passed. Ken K8KIC motioned that the club modify the club's Kenwood 570 to operate on the new Civil Air Patrol frequencies with a high stability crystal so qualified members will be able to check in to the CAP net, approximate cost less than \$200. Second by George KC8UJV. Motion passed. Motion to adjourn by Harold WA8QPS second Marion WF8F. Motion passed. The program was put on by Ted K8AQM & Dave K8AA on their DXpedition to the South Pacific this passed Summer. The star of their trip (beside the operators) was the Sigma V vertical antenna which was discussed in detail. Secretary Bill KA8ARK.

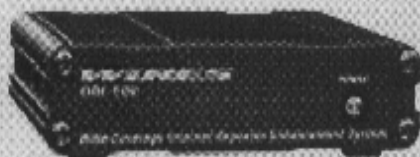
I know I'm sounding like an add for Yaseu but I'm excited about this possibility. I'm an hfer and a local 440 repeater user. Perhaps some of the "tech-lite" hams would like to get a taste of what working DX is like and I think this WIRES-II system might be just the thing to open new avenues. We have two repeaters now in our club and either one could go to a WIRE-II link on a part-time basis or whatever would be decided upon. I would be more than willing to donate a computer for the operation and I think I know where there would be an accessible 100+ foot tower, should we ever want to put an addition repeater on the air(220 Mhz?). The possibilities are endless with this project and all it would take is a few excited ops wanting to try something new. Yup, the pot is stirred and the gauntlet is thrown, anyone care to pick it up? I'll leave you with some additional WIRES-II information from Yaseu:



Your Hand-held or Mobile is Now Your Bridge to the World, and Your "Local" Repeater Will Never Be the Same!

WIRES™-II uses DTMF signaling to connect your hand-held or car transceiver, via the HRI-100 Interface Box, to the Internet, and from there the sky really is the limit!

WIRES™-II Amateur Radio Internet Linking Kit



HRI-100 Interface Box
(Requires 12 V DC Input)

Connections:

DC In: 12 V \pm 10 %, negative ground, 1 A max.
SP Jack: Input from Sound Card, 600 mV rms @ 600 Ω
MIC Jack: Output to Sound Card, 600 mV p-p @ 600 Ω
Radio Jack TX: AF IN 500 mV rms @ 600 Ω
DISC OUT: 500 mV rms @ 600 Ω
PTT (Positive 5 V DC)
Dimensions (W x H x D): 4.4" x 1.0" x 5.5" (111 x 25.4 x 133 mm)
Weight: 0.66 lb (300 g)

Components

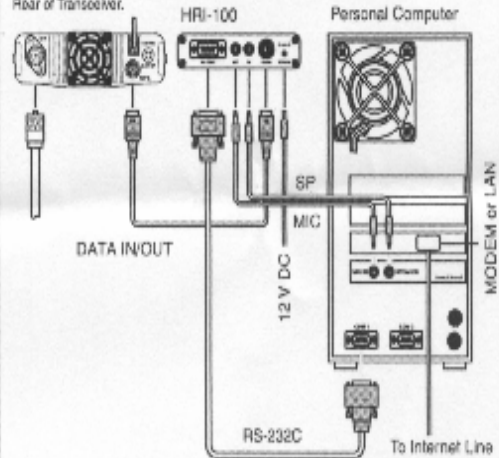


AP01 CD-ROM (Including Manual)
Power Cable
Data Cable (RS-232C DB-9 Plug)
Data Cable (8-pin Mini-DIN Plug)
Audio Cable (3.5 mm Plug) (2)
WIRES™-II User/Server Agreement

•Optional Accessory:
NC-72B AC Adapter

System Diagram

UHF Transceiver (such as FT-8900R). Set Packet Baud Rate to 1200 bps. Connects to standard Packet Jack on Rear of Transceiver.



WIRES™-II Internet Linking System Requirements

- WIRES™-II Kit (HRI-100 Controller, Cables, Manual, Software)
- Transceiver or Repeater (XCVR with standard PKT Jack recommended: FT-8900R, FT-817, FT-847, FT-897, etc.)
- Intel® MMX 200 MHz (or faster) processor
- Internet Connection (56K dial-up, ISDN, DSL, or other high speed lines OK)
- Microsoft® Windows® 98SE or later operating system

- 30 MB of available Hard Disk space
- 64 MB (or more) RAM
- CD-ROM Drive for installation
- 640 x 480 color display recommended, with 256-bit color support on video card
- 56 kbps Modem (for dial-up connections)
- Sound Card with 44.1 kHz sampling rate (some sound cards may not work)

Solar Power? Yes Please!

Denny WE8Z brought it to my attention the last issue of QRP Quarterly had a great article on using solar power. At our Wednesday night building/BS sessions Norm W8TTH mentioned he had several solar panels that would be perfect for charging a battery running a small QRP hf transceiver or vhf transceiver. After checking out the article and all the great ideas some follow-up is in order. How come a group of guys don't make an effort this summer to run at least one rig either vhf or hf on solar power? How come we don't have a solar power assisted system charging and running on either of our repeaters? Do we need them...no, but wouldn't it be a hoot to try it and know we could do it if we needed to someday? Club projects could be developed to at least run our vhf gear at the club station from solar power/battery.

If you're interested in learning more about solar power contact Denny and I'm sure he'll reprint you a copy of the article. Gee, there is just so much to learn about and do...darn work gets in the way of our fun!

160m Contesting at N8CC's

Another contest has come and gone and N8CC hosted K8XXX to another great time. What a great group of guys gather at Jeff's for some contesting and to put one of the midwest's premiere 160m stations. Following are some "fun shots" of the gang:



Mark NU8Z from the back and running K8XXX



Ron ND5S and Stan AC8W running pileups



Here Hank K8DD and Stan AC8W are discussing contest strategy with "Sonny" one of Jeff's cats. "Cher" was off in "discussions" with some of the other ops taking a break. Jeff has three cats, Felix, Sonny and Cher and when you're not operating the cats entertain you with their antics.

There are so many great pictures and stories from N8CC's but I can only show a few. You should see the food!

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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

Monday 10 Meter Local Chat at 9:00 p.m. on 28.495 +/- 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

N8QZO 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan

Local Area DX Packet Clusters

K8AQM 144.910 and 446.575 Adrian, Michigan

K8XXX 144.970, 441.150 Adrian, Michigan

Adrian ARC 30th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

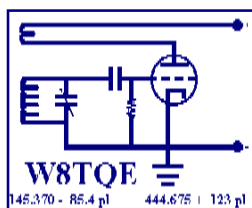
September 15, 2002

Hamfest Chair Eric, K8JVV kc8jvw@tc3net.com

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