

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone. It is already late October. This year sure has flown by. As I am sitting here writing, the leaves are falling from the trees and so is the cold rain. It seems to be a typical October day, which is too bad. I wish the weather would break tradition and give us slightly warmer temperatures and less precipitation.

Once again, I would like to thank the club members for my re-election. I know Dick (K8GX) is also happy that things are staying the way they were.

Last year I made you all a challenge to try to get at least one person to become a ham, or get a new ham to join the club, or an old member to re-join. We did get a few new people, but certainly we should keep trying. You all love to talk, so spread the word of ham radio with all your friends and family.

WE CURRENTLY HAVE A REAL THREAT TO OUR HAM RADIO HOBBY. BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) The power companies and the FCC feel that they can sell the use of power lines and make lots of money by using power line to make the internet services cheaper to the public. Of course this is all at our expense. Right now there are regulations to prevent this, but there are plans to change these regulations creating a real threat to our hobby. Please read Mark's (NU8Z's) article in this issue of The Tickler on this subject. To find out more about BPL go to <http://www.arl.org/tis/info/html/plc/> on the web. We don't want our hobby to die. Mark also sent out an email with web connections for hams to show their State Representatives and Senators that we are concerned about losing our frequencies. The email has links directly to our people, which allows you to just enter your information on a form and a letter and just send it. It gets no simpler than that. I responded for both Norm (W8TTH) and myself. I hope you did too. If you didn't get this email and would like the information I am sure you can contact Mark and I know I kept the email. I have already gotten a reply from Senator Stabenow. We need to keep the frequencies we currently have and this is one way to let our leaders know we care. They are there to convey our wishes, so let's use them.

We need 3 people for the board and the nominations are: Andy (WU8UWQ), Art (KC8GTA), Larry (W8LNR), Mike (KC8WKG) and Norm (W8TTH). Please come to the November meeting on the 7th and cast your votes.

There are several hamfests in November and I hope you can attend some or all of them. There is one on November 1st in Holland, Michigan and one on the 2nd in Benton Harbor, Michigan that Norm and I will be attending this year. There is also the Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo on November 15th and 16th. I know the 15th is the first day of gun season, but you have a whole two weeks and I am sure you could give up this one day for what is usually a great hamfest.

See you at the meeting.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

More From the Shack of K8GX

Last month *The Tickler* featured K8GX's shack. Never one to let the grass grow under his feet, Dick has totally revised his shack and moved from a single operating position to a multi-operating position. Instead of a single hf radio Dick has opted for two hf radios and two operating positions, one for ssb and the other for cw and digital mode which Dick soon hopes to be involved in with the help of K8AA's expertise. Dick now has a second IC-751A and with a flick of the switch can throw his entire selection of antennas from one 751A to the other. A second computer was needed for running the digital modes and Dick has a 200mhz machine on line for digital work. Dick said that moving the antenna lines under the floor over to the new position took him an entire day and then moving the equipment another entire day. Dick's old operating position has been taken over by his wife and the family internet computer. Below is a picture of Dick's new layout:



I think you'll agree with me this is quite an improvement and a very fine looking station installation. Dick says he now has room to have a pad of paper on his desk for copying code. Maybe this is the time of year to get the shack ready for those nice cozy winter hours of operation? Nice job Dick, well done.

Ed: PS that 751A for cw works very well on cw and has a lot of experience.

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know...

...NU8Z, W8CFP and KC8DAR helped KG8CO get his TH-11 up on the tower and working?
 ...WA8UWQ helped K8AQM take down his lower Quad for rebuilding this winter? What a job!
 ...W8TTH got 100 feet of Rohn 25 and needs help taking it down from Kalamazoo, talk to Norm.
 ...N8QZO has a new Telerex Tribander to go up, formally KC8DAR's and K8AQM's?
 ...K8AQM now owns a Collins 75A-4? If you don't know what that is ask W8ZJE, Vince will tell you.
 ...K8AA will be getting a new KNEE, that's not a rig by the way!
 ...there was a major solar disturbance that wiped out the hf bands this month?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board met at the CAP building on October 3, 2003. President Ginny W8TTX called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following were present: Art KC8GTA, Dave (K8AA), Andy WA8UWQ, Dick K8GX, Norm W8TTH, Ted K8AQM, Eric K8JWV, and Neil KC8DAR. Our Secretary was absent. Discussion determined what old and new business needed to be presented at the club meeting. The board meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the CAP building on October 3, 2003 with 30 people present. Our Secretary was absent. The minutes from the September meeting were approved on a motion by Alan (N8TIB) and a second by Howard (WA8QPS). The treasurer's report was read by Dave (K8AA) and was approved on a motion by Andy (WA8UWQ) and a second by Ken (K8KIC).

Old business

Eric (K8JWV) and Dave (K8AA) gave a hamfest report. Ted (K8AQM) gave a report on the antenna/coax revamping session scheduled for October 18th. It was brought up to the club that dues were due and you must be a member to vote. The w8tque website was also mentioned.

New business

It was determined that there is a need for a two-meter rotating antenna to help us as well as the CAP.

Andy (WA8UWQ) mentioned the need for a Technical Committee.

Andy also made up Hamfest Ticket Certificates to be given out at the area hamfests as door prizes.

Neil (KC8DAR) reflected on the latest Adopt a Highway event.

Prices for club jackets, hats, and T-shirts from the Stitchography Shoppe in Jackson were given to club members.

The club will start sending the Tickler to other clubs in the area. Toledo, Fort Wayne, Monroe, Chelsea, Jackson, and Hillsdale were mentioned.

The decision to split the cost of Technician class videotapes with the Fulton County Amateur Radio Club was mentioned to the club members.

Elections for Club Officers was tabled on a motion by Andy (WA8UWQ) and a second by Bob (K2IBM) to cast a unanimous ballot vote to keep the present officers. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Andy (WA8UWQ) and second by Eric (K8JWV). Motion passed.

WE NEED TO ACT NOW !!!!!

I talked with Ginny this morning and she informed me that that she was putting a short piece in the Tickler about the need for all of us mobilize and get involved in the fight to protect our frequencies. There are a number of reasons that we need to do this NOW!

First, there is the simple fact that the frequencies that we occupy are worth a lot of money. There are those out there that would love to occupy our frequencies and would pay big money to do it. If you have been watching the news, you know that the government always needs money.

The second threat comes from a new proposed method of transmitting the internet over the existing power lines. This is called BPL, or "Broadband Over Power Lines". This system operates by sending broadband signals (60 – 2 Mhz) over existing power lines. These are not just the cross country type power lines, but also the lines that run through your neighborhood and house. This would be disastrous for Amateur Radio! It will interfere with us, and we with them! The FCC is considering lifting or relaxing the Part 15 interference requirements to allow this to happen. They know that it would cause interference as defined by the existing Part 15 rules. So far they have ignored the empirical evidence that has been provided by the ARRL and other organizations. They believe that BPL is great and is the answer to all world internet distribution problems. Who are they going to make happy? Would it be 670,000 hams, or 100 million other people who would love cheap internet service??? Uhm??? (that's a tough one) In addition to this, the power companies will claim that the funds generated by BPL distribution could be used to rebuild our aging power grid. For more information on BPL see <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>

OK, enough gloom and doom. This is a battle where we can influence the outcome if we get off our butts and put up a fight. It's time to fish, not cut bait and run! On the outside chance that we can't stop BPL, we can surely apply enough influence to make sure that the FCC considers the problems that might be created for us when they approve the final plan.

Right now there are bills before both the house and the senate that would protect our frequencies. We need to convince or senators and congressmen to support these bills and sign on as sponsors. We need to do this ASAP!! This session is about to end. You can find the names and email addresses of your Congressmen and Senators at the following websites, <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> and <http://www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm>

These web sites allow you to let them know how you feel on a issue. It's easy to do and only takes about 10 minutes to send emails to both Senators and your Congressmen. Below you will find a generic letter that will have to be modified depending on the recipient. There are Two bills, one before the Senate, and one before the House.

The SENEATE Bill is: (S 537) , the "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003," and is sponsored by Sen. Michael Crapo (R-ID).

The HOUSE Billis: (HR 713) , the "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003," sponsored by Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL).

(Continued on page 5)

Modify the below sample letter with the proper names, bill numbers, sponsoring Sen. Or Rep. etc and cut and paste into the above web sites. Believe me it's easy!!

SAMPLE EMAIL

(BE SURE TO MAKE APPROPRATE CHANGES to BOLDED LETTERS !!!!!!!!!!! Add correct info, then remove bold letters)

 <YOUR NAME>
 <YOUR ADDRESS>
 <CITY, STATE ZIP>

Dear Rep. or Senator _____

As one of the nation's more than 670,000 federally licensed radio amateurs, I urge you to co-sponsor **HR 713**, the "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003," sponsored by **Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL)**. **OR S 537**, the "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003," and is sponsored by **Sen. Michael Crapo (R-ID)**.

This bill is a nonpartisan, non-controversial measure designed to help protect the radio frequencies used by Amateur Radio volunteers throughout our nation in providing emergency communications assistance during times of disaster. Most recently, radio amateurs have aided government and private relief agencies after the terrorist attacks of September 2001, during the traumatic electrical outage in the northeaster part of the US earlier this year and during the severe forest fires which engulfed many parts of the Western United States last summer.

Your co-sponsorship of this bill will help ensure that Amateur Radio operators have access to the needed spectrum, essential to their public service role.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, **Your Name**

NOTE: Make sure you have the right info in the right letter! Also feel free to add some of your own wording.

Believe me, we can make a difference, but we need to do something NOW!!!!

Mark NU8Z

Ed note: I did it and it was really easy, I got a response back from all the recipients within two days!

President

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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

K8XXX 144.910, 441.150 Adrian, Michigan

K8XXX Telnet://12.245.236.250

Adrian ARC 31th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

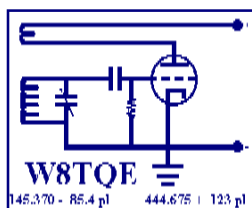
September 19, 2004

Hamfest Chair Eric, K8JVV k8jvw@arrl.net

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First Class