

The Ticker

From the Prez.....

Hello everyone. Mother Nature seems to be kind to us again this winter. Let's hope it holds out a little longer. We can have a little snow for Christmas, but hopefully it won't over do it.

This will be a hard letter for me to write this month and I hope I won't be the one to break the news to some of you, but I want to make a tribute to Andy Hubbell (WA8UWQ) who became a silent key on November 8th.

Andy received his first Amateur Radio License in the early 60's. He held a Technician license and his first call was N8PVW. He became a General in 2000. Andy participated in early field day events by working 2 and 6 meters from a small trailer. He helped build the club station at the American Red Cross site in the early 70's and helped with the club's first hamfest in 1973. Andy was instrumental in getting our first repeater on the air in 1976. Andy also served as club president for many terms. He was our webmaster for the W8TQE website. Andy worked several years as a Technician in the Avionics shop at the Lenawee County Airport with Charlie Comfort (W8KGK) and Larry Cox (N8FAM) who are also silent keys. Andy moved onto the telephone industry working for GTE and Verizon from which he retired in 2000. Andy helped the club in more ways than probably any one of us knows. I can't remember when he ever missed a club meeting or one of the Technician classes for new hams. He did our investigating when we were looking for new equipment and was always the first to volunteer to help with tower, computer, or equipment upgrading. He was always there to support the club in every aspect. Andy will be missed by all.

At the November meeting Andy was also chosen as one of the three new board members along with Larry (W8LNR) and Norm (W8TTH). It will be decided at the meeting how a replacement member will be chosen.

Fort Wayne hamfest was another success this year. The fest seemed to be up this year from last and there were plenty of patrons there to participate. Norm (W8TTH) and myself spent the whole weekend and had a great time. We enjoyed the company and card playing with some fellows who stayed in the same motel on Friday night (Dave KA8KDS, Ted KG4ORO, and John KG8XG). I was happy to see several of our club members attend the hamfest and take advantage of the bargains again this year.

Once again another Thanksgiving Day is over, but Christmas is just around the corner. Don't get trampled while making your holiday purchases. The best policy is to shop all year, so you don't have to be out in the mad rush of shoppers.

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

73,
Ginny W8TTX

A Note From KC8A

Hi Ted,

I am looking for a box fan (I think maybe called muffin fan) similar to the one that was in the back of my Dentron Amp. There are about 5.5" x 1.5 thick. I have been using one for a noise maker in a hotel room. I left my fan in Washington and apparently the housekeepers wanted it. Maybe a little comment in the Tickler would find one in some ones junk box.

It pays to contact our law makers. Here is a copy of a letter from Debbie Stabenow.

Jack

November 17, 2003

Thank you . . .

. . for contacting me regarding your support for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003. I share your support for protecting the availability of spectrum to amateur radio operators.

As you may know, this bill was introduced by Senator Michael Crapo on March 5, 2003, and it seeks to ensure the availability of spectrum to amateur radio operators. This bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, of which I am not a member. I understand the important service that amateur radio operators provide to their communities and I will keep your views in mind should this legislation come to the Senate floor for a vote.

Thank you again for contacting my office. Please feel free to contact me in the future whenever I can be of assistance to you or your family.

Sincerely,
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Repeater Funding Sought

The Adrian ARC is looking to replace our existing 2m repeater. Our existing repeater on 2m is an old Motrac unit and desperately needs upgrading. Andy WA8UWQ was securing information on a new repeater via Adrian Communications (K8TI, Dan Baker). The repeater would cost approximately \$900-\$1000 and would be a Kenwood Commercial repeater. This repeater would fit well with our existing 2m cavities and would have the latest technology available. Adrian Communications would be able to service this machine should we need the assistance, and would provide an instant plug-in replacement in the event our machine needs to be serviced.

The club funds could provide approximately half of the cost of this new machine and the board is asking members to help contribute if they can. No donation would be too small and anything would help defray the repeater costs. If you would care to donate please contact K8AA and make your donation payable to the Adrian ARC, please indicate funds are for the 2m repeater.

It's never easy to ask for financial assistance within an organization but this is certainly a benefit to all club members and our existing home brew repeater has been in service for many, many years. If you can, please help fund our new repeater.

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that.....

- ... Marion WF8F got an MN keyer like Ken and Denny have?
- ... K8GX is about ready to put up a new tower at his already super station?
- ... K8AA is home recovering with his new knee? Dave made rumblings of keeping the old parts and making "hambone" soup for W8TTH and K8AQM...sick!
- ... since putting up his new TH-11 KG8CO, Brian says the bands have been really "hot"!
- ... W8TTH is shooting pistols now every week at the Conservation League range.
- ... poor K8GX got stuck away in K8AQM's truck while Ted smoked cigars all the way to Battle Creek?
- ... NU8Z has become active on "Echo Link"?
- ... N8CC in Battle Creek has a 200 foot tower up?
- ... the N8QZO 440 repeater has new hardline and is back bigger and better than ever?
- ... K8AQM has a 40m dipole and a two element triband yagi operational in his attic?
- ... it took only six days after applying via the internet for a renewed license to arrive?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club board met at the cap bldg. on November 7, 2003 at 7:00 pm. The following persons were present, President Ginny W8TTX, Dick K8GX, Eric K8JWV, Neil KC8DAR, Norm W8TTH, Andy WA8UWQ, Dave K8AA, Brian KG8CO, Mark NU8Z, Ted K8AQM, Art KC8GTA, Kevin N8JMN, and Bill KA8ARK. It was noted that the Great Lakes Hamfest, near Chicago has changed Their Hamfest date, to that which conflicts with our date for 2004. While it probably won't affect our attendance this year, it will probably affect the number of vendors. Marion WF8F reported that someone at the Senior center would like a member from our club to present a program on Ham radio. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club was called to order by president Ginny W8ttx at 7:30pm at the CAP building on November 7, 2003. There were 29 persons present. KA8UUV was introduced as a new ham in the area. Election of board members was held with the following being elected, Andy WA8UWQ, Norm W8TTH, and Larry W8LNR. Minutes of the October meeting were approved as published in the Tickler upon a motion by Andy WA8UWQ, second by Marion WF8F. Motion Passed. The Financial report was presented by Dave K8AA and showed a balance of \$3158.02 Motion by Jim W1SJZ second Mike KC8WKG to accept the financial report. Motion passed. Andy WA8UWQ has been doing a great job on the club web site. Tickler editor Ted K8AQM always welcomes articles for the Tickler. Motion by Joe K8YZA to donate \$600 to the Civil Air Patrol for use of the CAP building, second by Norm W8TTH. Motion passed. Joe K8YZA reported on a course to qualify for the RACES program to be put on by Jim Anderson sometime early in December. He also reported that a Simulated Emergency Test is scheduled for November 8, 2003. Volunteers are needed to go to Leslie and some to man the emergency net in this area. The Fulton County Radio Club has recommended that we share the cost with them to purchase videotapes for teaching new hams. Ted K8AQM moved Ken K8KIC second to buy the ARRL tapes. Motion passed. The Sweepstakes Phone Contest will be next Saturday the 15th of November starting at 4:pm. Ted K8AQM will be at the CAP building and will assist others who wish to participate in the contest. Harold WA8QPS motioned to adjourn, second by Ken K8KIC. Motion passed.

Secretary Bill KA8ARK.

Avoiding a Disaster!

By K8AQM

Those of us who work the DX bands know you need a gain antenna and preferably at a greater than 40 foot height. Antennas cost, towers cost, rotors cost and all the necessary hardware for antennas above 40 feet cost (like guy wire, grips, turnbuckles and insulators) so the total for putting together a pretty good tower system for chasing DX comes in in the neighborhood of \$1000. When someone says would you like 100 foot of Rohn 25, a TH-6 yagi, rotor and all the hardware for free, it takes no more than a nano second for a reply of **“SURE!”** to be heard. If you don't respond that way, one of us sure will! Norm W8TTH was offered such a deal and all we had to do was drive over to Kalamazoo to take it down and it was Norm's.

Norm put together the crew of KG8CO Brian, KD8SF Larry, WA8UWQ Andy, K8GX Dick and myself, to go fetch this system home to Adrian. Three weeks ago on a fine Saturday, not too cold and not too windy we arrived at the station of KG8V(SK) to take the system down. Before climbing, we tightened and inspected everything, things looked pretty good, Norm was even going to get a gin pole in the project! We brought the club's new pole along and all the equipment necessary to do our usual safe and successful antenna projects. The antenna came down smoothly and without a hitch. Norm owns a weathered but completely serviceable TH-6 now. The rotor was a dead horse, the antenna free-wheeled and actually “drilled” through the bell into the rotor! The first section was hard to remove but the other sections weren't bad at all to remove.

Here are W8TTH and KG8CO at 100 ft. getting

K8GX and WA8UWQ work on disassembling the



Ready to lower the TH-6



TH-6 after successfully getting the antenna down.

Everything went well until the last 35 feet which should have been the easiest to work with. KG8CO was climbing down and W8TTH above getting ready to release the last set of guy wires. The wires were released and the tower seemed to be “swaying” a lot more than it should have and more than it did at any of the higher levels. Sensing something wasn't right, KG8CO was taken off the tower and only W8TTH remained on the tower to finish the job. After all the sections were down it was decided to examine the base of the tower which through the years had been covered with dirt. The bottom section was in cement but it was covered with dirt and where the dirt remained in contact with the tower legs, two of the three legs had rusted completely off! That means while the guys were on the tower and working at the various

various levels, the tower was supported only by one leg and a couple of “Z brace” supports! Wow, talk about eye opening! We could have had a major disaster on our hands! It was a very sobering moment for all of us and made us realize just how lucky we were. The lesson to be learned here is to always keep dirt away from your tower legs and check all tower legs for structural strength that may have been in the dirt before you climb! Below is the picture of the crew, the tower, equipment and antenna loaded on the trailer before we head home.



Back

row left

to right: Andy WA8UWQ, Dick KK8GX

Front row left to right: Brian KG8CO, Larry KD8SF Norm W8TTH

** It was difficult for me to write this article as it was the last time I and the rest of the guys got to spend with Andy. Linda told me later Andy was doing what he liked and wanted to right up to the end and I think she was right. Andy would want us to share our last ham radio adventure together with you. No words can possibly express the sorrow and aching we feel over Andy's death. No one could be missed more than Andy will be missed.*



On the left, N8CC's new 200 foot tower. On the right, no not the three blind mice or three stooges but rather N8CC, W8TTH and K8GX walking the trail back from inspecting on of N8CC's beverage antennas for 160m. This was the “shorty”, only about 600 feet long. The others are 1200 feet or more!

Welcome to the big leaguess
Dick!



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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

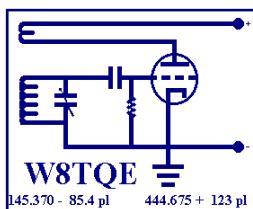
September 19, 2004

Hamfest Chair Eric, K8JVV k8jvw@arrl.net

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First Class