

# The Tickler

## *From the Prez.....*

Hi everyone. I am afraid that cold weather is on its way. The leaves are already changing colors and we have even had a bit of snow. Thankfully it wasn't cold enough for it to stick to anything. I am not looking forward to the time it can.

Make sure you come to the club meeting on Monday night. It is once again Officer Election night and Board Member Nomination night. The office of President is between Marge (KB8TMM) and myself and whatever the outcome we will both be glad to serve once again as President and Vice President of the Adrian Amateur Radio Club. Our Treasurer Mark (NU8Z) and our Secretary Bill (KA8ARK) will remain in office another year.

I would like to thank Ted (K8AQM) for the fine job he is doing as Editor of our newsletter, "The Tickler". I would also like to thank Bob (K2IBM) for the great job he does with the maintenance of the website. Make sure you get on the website and check out "The Tickler" and all of the other fine things that make up our club. The website is [www.w8tqe.com](http://www.w8tqe.com). Please check it out. Don't forget to send these two fellows thing that need to be known to all members of the club. Ted and Bob both can always use articles and pictures that may be of interest to all of you.

Audrey Brown will be our guest speaker at the October meeting. She is a Captain in the Army and the Homeland Security Exercise Coordinator for South East Michigan. She is also the daughter of Jim Brown (W1SJG). Her presentation should be very interesting and I hope you are all at the meeting to gain some knowledge concerning our Nation's Security.

Norm (W8TTH) and I visited two hamfests this month, Kalamazoo Hamfest and the Holland Hamfest. They both turned out to be pretty good hamfests. Once again November will bring the Fort Wayne Hamfest which will be held this year on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Fort Wayne Hamfest is always a good time for all that attend. Norm and I will be in the upper level this year. That will be a good change I hope.

See you at the meeting.

73,  
Ginny W8TTX



## Testing Antennas the Easy Way!

After years of putting up antennas on towers and then sometimes bringing them down to “retune” them I finally have a better way. W8TTH has this portable 40 feet tower that pushes up with gas. It’s a great way to assemble and test your antenna BEFORE putting it up on a tower and then lowering it to retune it.

The photo to the left shows the tower in the down position with my five band two element quad resting after testing each band. The lower left photo shows clearly the “nesting” position and the cylinder used to push the tower up. With an MFJ analyzer it was really slick to watch the change in swr as the antenna was raised. Below are the two yagis I “tuned” that will be going up on an 80 ft tower and a 90 ft tower. It’s a battle to weave them through my

trees and now I know they’re retuned and will work where I want them to when they’re raised.

Thanks to W8TTH for the use of this time and labor saving device!

73...K8AQM



## So You Want to Go on a Dxpedition?

In late July and early August N8CC, K8AQM, KT8X and JF3MYU went to Samoa (5W). Here is Dennis KT8X who “volunteered” to be the QSL manager for just the three state-side guys (N8CC, K8AQM, KT8X). JF3MYU chose to be the QSL manager for 5W0KI and 5W0TT. Dennis has a great shack and an awesome antenna farm to go with his fine station. But poor Dennis has a problem, he has no time to enjoy that great shack and super antenna farm. Dennis is busy responding to the QSL requests for the 14,000 QSOs made! As seen in the picture, Dennis has a box full of QSLs to respond to and when I last talked to him he said he’s still getting about ten cards a day requesting a QSL. Dennis has about the same number of QSOs to work

through as K8AA has/had for the V63 and two 5W expeditions we went on in the past six years...but all at once!

The lesson to be learned here is be careful what you wish for! QSLing a Dxpedition can be very serious work. Just ask Dennis or Dave about that!



## *AARC Club Gossip! .....*

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

...W8TTH rides a tricycle around at work all night? How soon before the vhf rig is installed?  
 ...KB8NVL bought some Rohn tower and antennas to go up on it?  
 ...WE8Z has his "Montanna" fifth wheel all equiped for hf and vhf? Sweet!  
 ...K8AA bought a damaged FT-1000 MP for parts in his "special rx project"?  
 ...W8TTH has the repeater ready for moving to the "high" tower?  
 ...K8AQM has two triband yagis and a five band two element quad ready to go up?  
 ...KC8DAR took a VERY LARGE lightening strike? Hope he can find a good electrician. ..hihi!  
**...NEXT MONTH IS THE 2006 SAMOAN TRAVELOGUE...bring the XYL**  
 ...NU8Z has installed a rotate able 160/80 loop in his yard, going for 160M DXCC!  
 ...K8AA now is an expert with the K-1 by Elecraft?  
 ...rumors are that W8TTH will soon have a K-2/100 kit to build?  
 ...K8NP and the snow birds (KS8I and WE8Z) will soon be heading south?  
 ...KG8CO has decided to wait till "next" year to raise his 4 el 40M yagi?  
 ...W8LNR has a new W8TTH side-arm installed at 75 feet for 2m/440?  
 ...K8KIC has a new super fast computer AND high speed internet?  
 ...W8TTH and K8ADM have installed the 2M repeater at the new sight? 280 ft antenna @20w!  
 ...W8LNR has a new 40M inverted Vee?  
 ...KB8NVL build a mini travel G5RV for KG8CO's travels? Reports: "Works great!"  
 ...N8TIB will be moving soon and is having an auction Nov. 9th?

## AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board meeting was called to order by vice president Marge at 07:00 pm on 9-25-2006. The following were present Marge KB8TMM, Larry W8LNR, Bob K2IBM, Norm W8TTH, Dick K8GX, Mark NU8Z, Neil KC8DAR, Bill KA8ARK, and Dave K8AA. Norm W8TTH will order hamfest flyers and tickets for next year. The board discussed this years hamfest. Suggested that food prices be increased. Wait till later in the day to give out the prizes. Talk about dues for next year. The board adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at 7:30 pm on September 25, 2006 at the CAP building with 28 persons present. The August minutes were accepted upon a motion by Harold WA8QPS, second by Norm W8TTH. The motion passed. The treasurer's report by Mark NU8Z and showed a balance of \$5,052.64. The Hamfest profit was \$835.00. The financial report was accepted upon a motion by Bob K2IBM second by Harold WA8QPS. There were 6 upgrades including 2 to general and 1 extra at the testing at the Hamfest. Jim Brown's daughter will have the program on homeland security for next month. Mark NU8Z will have the program in January. Bob K2IBM has updated the club's web site to keep costs at a minimum. Under new business: Joe K8YZA reported that there will be a Simulated Emergency Test Oct 7 beginning at 9am there will be an hf net and all repeaters will be turned off. Nominations for president included Ginny W8TTX and Marge KB8TMM. Neil KC8DAR motioned that the nominations for president be closed. Mark NU8Z was nominated for Treasurer and Bill KA8ARK was nominated for secretary. Nominations were closed by Norm W8TTH. second by Kevin N8JMN. It was reported that the 2 meter repeater is still at Norms. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm by Alan N8TIB.

Secretary Bill KA8ARK.



## The Voice of Victory! The BC-610

Those of you who go back in ham radio and WW II are most likely familiar with this famous Hallicrafter rig. The transmitter is featured in many WW II documentaries and was seen in a jeep/station-wagon vehicle pulling a generator and providing communications right in the front lines. Below is Bob W8MNQ who has restored a BC-610 and coupled with a Hallicrafters SX-28A has a beautiful 400w CW and AM station. The BC-610 weighs in at 500+ pounds and produces some serious heat when fired up. It has no fan and supplies the ham shack with plenty of heat! It's a beauty to behold when all lit-up. The picture on the left is the unit itself while the right hand picture shows the top access where the coils for band changing are located. To change bands you lift the hatch and unplug and replace coils.

At December's meeting a video entitled "The Voice of Victory" will be shown to the club which traces



how the BC-610 was manufactured and tested in the Hallicrafter's plant in Chicago during WW II. The DVD is about 40 minutes long and you should not miss this piece of documented history.

Thanks to Bob for a very enjoyable and informative visit. W8MNQ is located in Port Huron, Michigan



## N8CC Newest Member of MI QRP Club!

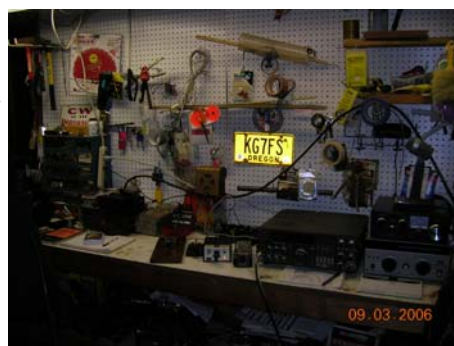


The Michigan QRP Club is an organization of operators who believe "less is best". There are many fine operators in this club who often run 5 watts or less, ie. K8DD, AC8W and N8CQA just to mention a few. At this year's Marshall Hamfest K8AEM secured a membership for N8CC our club member. Many of you know Jeff as the host station for many of the K8XXX contest operations. Equipment at Jeff's include a five (and sometimes six) station setup complete with kilowatts. As a new member of MI QRP it will be interesting to see Jeff uses his great antennas with only 5 watts. Can he work WAS and make a QRP DXCC? K8DD, AC8W and K8AQM have achieved QRP WAS and DXCC. Will N8CC and K8XXX make the grade? Good luck Jeff, "Get'r done!"

## Meet KG7FS...Rich Jones



Several weeks ago while chatting on the Tuesday night 10 ssb, we heard KG7FS breaking in. Naturally we assumed 10M was open to the west coast. Imagine our surprise when KG7FS said he was in Manchester, MI. Rich is quite a good guy and has become a regular now on both the cw and ssb 10m nets. K8AA and I paid Rich a visit where we got a tour of the shack. Rich is building a ham radio room in his barn. The lower right hand picture shows the room in the early stages of



building and now informs us it's 80% done and very cozy for the winter. You can see by the above picture and the one on the right Rich has a great work bench area for repairing and improving his equipment. Right now Rich has a TS-940, Drake TR-4cw and a TS-530. He uses a vertical for 15 and 10M and is building a two element 30M yagi. Although a KG7, Rich has lived in Manchester for quite a few years and enjoys Michigan. He moved from Oregon and is a member of the Manchester Radio Club.

Rich has joined us for our 10M nets and most recently for our Wednesday lunch gathering at Mario's. Come to find out, Rich is a "tamale" fan and has discovered the Tamale Factory here in Adrian. We're working on getting



Rich to our club meeting and when we do be sure to introduce yourself. If he doesn't make it to a meeting come join us on 10M Tuesday evening and Thursday evening at 9:00 PM on 28.325 MHz (SSB) or on cw Tuesday at 8:00 PM 28.050 MHz and say hello to Rich.

73...K8AQM



## Look What I Found!

While cleaning out some QSL card files I ran across some very interesting QSLs and calls. On the left are some calls and cards you might recognize.

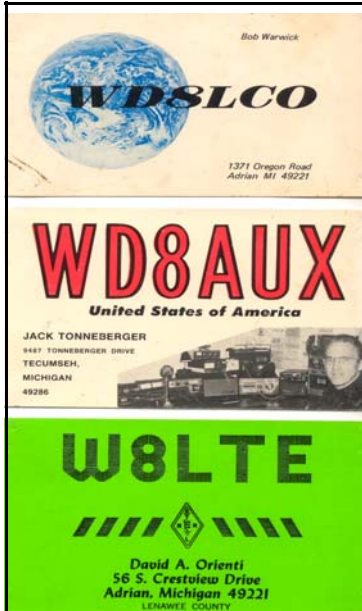
Do you know who WD8LCO is and what his new call is? This guy is a "Whiz" and knows a lot about a lot.

How about WD8AUX, can you give his new call? This Dxer has DXCC and has traveled extensively in Europe and areas south.

And now for the real test, do you know who W8LTE is and where he lived. His tower is now resting at K8GX's shack after resting for many years at KB8HW's shack.

Each month for next five or six I'll offer you a chance to view some of these old, rare and "exotic" QSLs. If you have some you'd like me to post just let me scan them for The Tickler.

73...K8AQM





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**K8AQM**

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

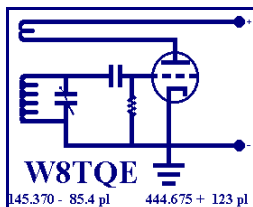
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan  
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

### Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September , 2006  
Hamfest Chair Ray, W8RAY Marge, KB8TMM

### AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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**First Class**