

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hello everyone. The weather has been a little on the wet side lately, but that is much better than snow. Although we have had a few flurries already this year, I am glad they didn't stay on the ground long. But unfortunately whether we like it or not, the time is coming shortly when they will.

Margie (KB8TMM) and I would like to thank the club members for our re-elections this year. I am looking forward to supporting the club once again this year as I have in the last 5. Time has really past quickly. You are such a good group of folks and without your support the club wouldn't exist. Please try to make it to the meetings and give your input on the issues that crop up. That is the best way to have your opinions heard.

The Fort Wayne Hamfest was held on November 18th and 19th and it is also one of the larger and better hamfests of the year that we attended. It will be quite a while before another hamfest, so I hope you attended and got all the ham gear that you will need until next year.

At the meeting on November 27th we will be electing 3 board members. The nominees are Dick (K8GX), Larry (W8LNR), Randy (N4UUJ) and Norm (W8TTH). Again come to the meeting and let your voice be heard.

Ted (K8AQM) will present this month's program. The program is being called "The Samoan Experience. Please bring your spouses and significant others to share in this event. Bring a snack of your choice to share with everyone and plan on the program lasting about an hour. It will be interesting and we will actually learn something about Samoa. Ted will be doing what he called a travelogue and I can hardly wait to see what Ted has to share with us.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

Editor's note: The Samoan program will focus both on the country of Samoa and the Dxpedition of 2006. Most likely the program will begin at 8:30 and finish about an hour later.

Oops,,,Somethings Wrong!

Quads are great antennas. Quads are "light weight" Quads can be a "son-of-a-gun" to get up into



the air! I put together a two element five band quad this fall and was really looking forward to getting it up in the air. With the help of K8GX, K8ADM and K8AA we went about putting up the quad on a 70 foot tower. The difficult part was to keep the quad away from the tower as we raised it using my yard tractor. K8ADM had the middle tag line around the boom, K8GX one side with a tag line while I had the other side with tag line. K8AA was riding the tractor and hoisting. We dropped the first set of guys and got the quad beyond them and then re-attached the guys. At this point we had to pull the quad away from the tower and trees and thats

when we got into trouble. This gin pole has raised hundreds of feet of tower, taken down hundreds and raised and lowered many large and small yagis. Never had we bent the pole of the gin pole...until now! As we neared the top of the tower...within two feet we noticed a lot of bend in the pole. In fact, we thought it was "kinked". It wasn't "kinked" just bent and bowed but caused great concern and a lot of hustle to get back up the tower and square matters away. We were lucky, everything worked out and the quad is in place and secured.

The lesson learned here is the tremendous mechanical advantage one has using tag lines and pulling "out" while attempting to pull "up." It will be a costly mistake too, \$100 for a new pole!

The bright side is the quad really works well and has a great swr across all five bands! Now according to K8AA I have just about guaranteed we'll have a huge ice storm this winter. If that's true, I'll go with a ground mounted Sigma next time around!



AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...Don KC8ELE built a K1 and now is working on building a K2?
 ...NU8Z who has worked just about everything, says he still works new band countries daily?
 ...K8AA and NU8Z are planning on getting a "computer" radio...known as a "flex radio"?
 ...KG8CO is building a 160M shut-fed vertical?
 ...K8GX installed a new 40M dipole?
 ...W8LNR can't understand why some stations actually "fade" in and out (QSB) on HF?
 ...K8AQM completed a 5 band DXCC which began in January? (40, 30, 20, 17, 15m)
 ...KG7FS has become a regular at Wednesday's lunch?
 ...KC8ELE is putting up a tower already?
 ...W8LNR's yagis go around....and around...and around? Oops!
 ...Our 2M repeater delivers 17 watts at 270 ft? De W8TTH
 ...KG7FS Rich is the newest member of AARC?
 ...N8CC has a new 8877 amp? Not QRP!
 ...Next Museum Ship weekend is June 9-10? Talk to WE8Z.
 ...only "real men" know what a "fat square" is?
 ...a two element quad can bend a gin pole?
 ...W8TTH has applied for a club call...and got it too?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board met at the CAP building at 7:00 pm on October 30, 2006. The following persons were present: Ginny W8TTX, Marge KB8TMM, Larry W8LNR, Ted K8AQM, Dick K8GX, Norm W8TTH, Bob K2IBM, Mark NU8Z and Bill K8ARK. Nomination for board members tonight. We have the Fairgrounds for the next 5 years if we want per telephone call. Dues are due. Repeater has been moved to WLEN tower. Nov meeting will be a "Samoan Experience" by Ted K8AQM.

The Adrian Amateur Radio club meeting was called to order at 7:40 by President Ginny W8TTX on October 30 2006 at the CAP building. There were 27 persons present. The minutes as published on the Tickler were approved upon a motion by Jim W1SJG second Alan N8TIB motion passed. The Treasurers report by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$5,180.79. Motion by Alex K8ADM to accept the report second by Bob K2IBM motion passed. Under old business Joe K8YZA reported that ICS tests 100 200 and IS 800 and IS 700 needs to be done before END OF THE YEAR. These tests can be taken on the ICS WEB SITE. DICK Mattis's WA8SGZ wife passed away yesterday. The club repeater has been moved to the WLEN tower. Next month K8AQM will be doing the "Samoan Experience" (travelogue). Wives are invited, bring snacks. Election for club president between Ginny W8TTX and Marge KB8TMM. After the votes were counted Ginny W8TTX was declared the winner with Marge KB8TMM the vice president. Nominations for the board positions held by Norm W8TTH, Larry W8LNR and Dick K8GX were Norm W8TTH, Dick K8GX, Larry W8LNR and Randy N4UJ. Alan N8TIB motioned to close the nominations Jim W1SJG second. Motion passed with the final vote to be taken next month. Motion to destroy the ballots for president by Bob K2IBM second by Alan N8TIB passed. The annual CAP donation will be discussed at the next board meeting. Jim Brown W1SJG will discuss placing a sign advertising the Ham Radio Club on the CAP radio tower with the airport manager. Cpt Audry Brown from the Michigan National Guard, daughter of club member Jim Brown W1SJG gave this evenings program on Homeland security. The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Jim W1SJG second by Ken K8KIC. Secretary Bill KA8ARK.

THE DXer's ANTENNA COOP

By Kurt Meyers, W8IQ

We DXers aspire to an Antenna Farm. Many of us city DXers have to settle for an Antenna Coop. That really hit hard when I remarried in 2004 and moved to my wife's home. It's a great house on a lot of property. Problem: The yard is mostly out front and on the side where ham aluminum would prove unsightly. The back yard can be visualized as half a glazed donut lying on its side wrapped around the sun porch on the back of the house: about 15' thick and perhaps 55' across the long dimension of the ellipse. In addition to cramped space telephone lines crisscross the yard. Power lines run alongside. There are enough tall trees to limit turning radius to a 10-Meter Yagi. Chicken wire to contain our dogs marks off 2/3 of that yard space. It's a genuine Antenna Coop!

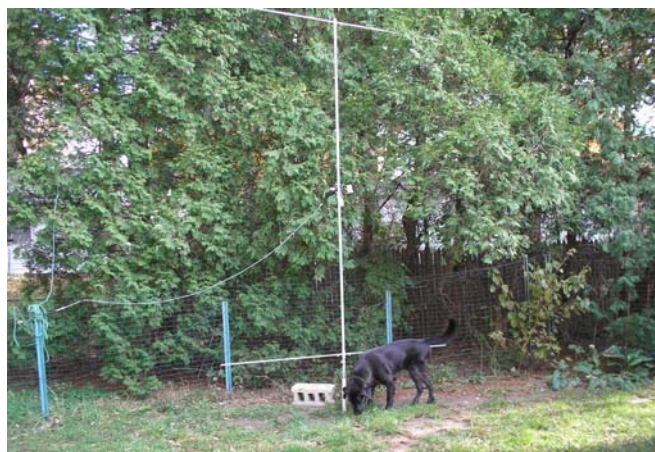
The first year I dangled a Carolina Windom 40 across the back yard, 5' below the manufacturer's minimum spec for height. I worked garden variety DX on 12-40 Meters. In the fall of 2005, I figured out how to hang up a Yankee Clipper 80-Meter Double L. This proved to be a blockbuster antenna on 80 Meters except for the OTH interference observed across most of the band.

Ted, K8AQM, began speaking of the Force 12 Sigma series of vertical dipoles, designed for low radiation angle — ergo DX. He had a Sigma V switchable across 10-20 Meters which he used chiefly for DXpeditions. Ted packed the Sigma V with his underwear and took it to Miquelon in November, 2005. It was set up about 25' outside our operating suite. On Sunday I was operating the 15-Meter position at FP/K8DD in the CQ WW DX Contest. We had 3 antennas available for 15 Meters. The Sigma V was the only one attracting a steady stream of callers.

After the FP trip I gave much thought to adding a Sigma antenna to my Coop. Conversation with the Force 12 engineer revealed that the Sigma-30 and Sigma-20 are identical except for the coils in the matching network. I ordered the Sigma-30 for 30 Meters. When it arrived I set it up ground-mounted in my Antenna Coop. First QSO was with Antarctica. DX on 30 M was sparse. If I was going to commit to one band, it was going to be 20 Meters. I wound and installed my own 20 Meters coils and began working DX on that band. Ted had stressed that the antenna should be set up on the ground, irrespective of surroundings. In my setting that meant a landscape of houses, garages, and fences. The instructions said the Sigma anten-



Sigma V (20-10M)



Sigma 30 (30M)

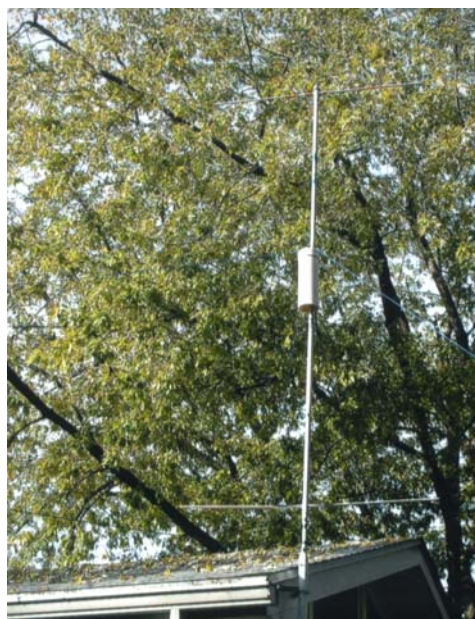
nas could be elevated to a maximum of 3/8-wavelength at the antenna center. Immediately I set the Sigma on a 10-foot pole, raising it above the roof line of most of the neighboring ranch style homes, well

I did not work the huge Andaman Island operation. I had good copy only once. When Montenegro became a new country, it was an easy catch on 20 CW and SSB. So was Ted, 5W0TR, on CW that is. I couldn't snag Ted's neighbor, KH8SI, initiating Swains Island as a new DXCC entity.

This fall after the 5W0 DXpedition Ted loaned me his well-traveled Sigma V. I took down my single-band Sigma and mounted Ted's Sigma V on the 10-foot pole. Then I reset my own single-band Sigma for 30 Meters and planted it on the ground in the Antenna Coop.

Results with the Sigma V were impressive. I got it up when the ZL8R operation from the Kermadecs was in mid-course. I had already worked them on 30, 40, and 80 Meters. In a half hour span I easily worked ZL8R with the Sigma V on 15 and 12 Meters CW. Two hours later they had QSYed to 17 CW. I worked them on the first call. The next day I worked them on 15 SSB after 10-12 calls. Other DX worked on the first call: XF4DL on 17 CW and D20VB on 20 SSB. On the 3rd call: VK9NS on 15 SSB. The 30-M Sigma ground-mounted snagged XF4DL and D20VB on first calls. Power output was 300-500 watts on all bands except 30 Meters. The next test will come when the whole world lines up for VU7LD, the former Laccadives, in December.

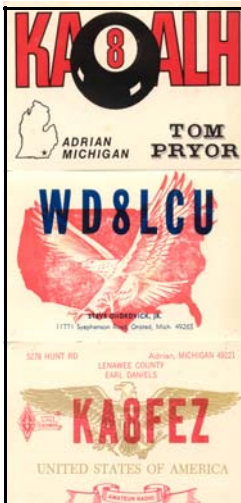
There's one last word if you operate from an Antenna Coop. You probably need to calculate your RF radiation limits to operate legally. I'm OK at 14 Mhz. At 17 Mhz I have to scale back to 650 watts. At 28 Mhz I'm at 240 watts. I use the calculator at <http://n5xu.ae.utexas.edu/rfsafety/>. When the bands are



NEW	BAND	ENTITIES		FROM	10/10/2006	W8IQ
12	15	17	20	30	40	80
E51/N	HI	D2	E51/N	9J	9J	D2
ZL8	TG9	E51/N		A22	E51/N	E51/N
	VK9N	HL		D2	ST	V6
	ZL8	V6		E51/N	V6	ZL8
		ZK2		ZK2	ZL8	
		ZL8		ZL8		

Editor's note: (not a good antenna for stateside QSOs)

The Sigma V is the antenna used for three trips to 5W and to FP. It has been used in the Caribbean by K8DD. In all it's travels it has never failed and always performed with great satisfaction. If you like to work DX and have no room for a rotating "biggie" then this is an antenna to consider. Price is not cheap and almost nonexistent in the used market. TNX W8IQ



More of Those Old QSLs and Calls

Ok, so some of you got lucky and knew the calls of the last three without looking at the names. K8KIC got all three and didn't look at the names.

Here are three more calls that are a "flash from the past". Can you identify KA8ALH (not his current call), KA8FEZ (also not his current call...I believe currently he is KC8UQ but inactive to my knowledge) and WD8LCU who no longer lives in the area.

Next month three more and if you have some members' or former members' cards that are "rare" pass them along and I'll scan them in.

By the way, last month the cards were:

WD8LCO...now K2IBM (what was his "previous" call?)

WD8AUX...now KC8A

President

Virginia Schutte, **W8TTX**
w8ttx@yahoo.com

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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

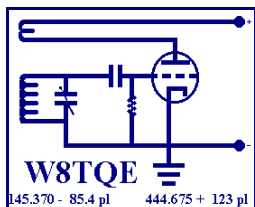
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 35th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September 16, 2007
Hamfest Chair Ray, W8RAY Marge, KB8TMM

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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First Class