

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hi folks! I hope everyone has been enjoying the pleasant weather. It is about time we got some good days.

There were a couple of hamfests in March and that were fairly well attended and everyone seemed to have a great time. Those hamfests were of course Marshall and Toledo. A couple of our club members even won prizes at the Toledo hamfest. Those lucky winners were Eric (K8JWV) who won a \$250 prize and Larry (W8LNR) who won a very nice complete soldering kit. Congratulations go out to them both.

The Michigan QSO Party has once again past and I understand we made lots of contacts, but the bands were really down this year. We had hoped to make a lot more contacts, but everyone of course had a lot of fun in the event. Norm (W8TTH) and I rode our motorcycles up to Jeff's (N8CC's) station in Battle Creek for the event. Everyone at his station was using Ted's K8XXX call. Jeff was quite the host and hardly sat down at all while we were there. Thanks Jeff. The guys were all on the radios making contacts when we got there and they were having a great time. I even convinced myself it looked like fun and got on the 40 meter band and made some contacts. I was real nervous at first, but once I have made a couple of contacts I get over all that and it turned out to be a good experience. Norm and I even went out to his motorcycle and gave the guys a couple of more contacts, since Norm has one of his Icom 706 MK II on the bike. There was at least one other group from our club on the air at Brian's (KG8CO's) station and there were also lots of other individual operators that participated. I hope they all did well and had a great time.

I would like everyone to think about Field Day. I wish we could get people interested in participating in this event again. The club used to be real active and it seems that no one is interested in the things that have made this club a success in the past. We want to attract new members and it seems that events like Field Day could help us. If we held the event, I am sure we could get a little blurb put into the Adrian Daily Telegram telling about the event. Maybe someone out in the area would see the type of things our club can do and why we participate in such an event and it would spark an interest in them to join our hobby. If not Field Day, please give me some suggestions as to how we can get more people into our hobby. I would like to thank Mark (NU8Z) and Brian (KG8CO) for getting the mailings out to previous members asking for them to rejoin and asking what we can do to get them back. A lot of time went into that project and I am sure it will help us regain members.

At the last meeting we had a great program that was presented by Mark (NU8Z). If you weren't there, you missed out on a great time. He sat up a Ham Jeopardy program on his laptop and those of that were at the meeting were split into two groups for the game. It was a lot of fun and I think a lot of us learned a few things from the game as well. Mark had said it was a mystery program and I knew it would be special. Mark's programs are always very interesting. We are blessed to have such a witty and talented speaker in our club.

Once again, I would like to thank our editor, Ted (K8AQM), for the great job he is doing with "The Tickler". Please support him by sending in articles and pictures. I also want to thank Bob (K2IBM) for the great job on the website. If you haven't been there to check it out, please do. It is located at w8tqe.com.

I don't have a whole lot more to say this month, but I am sure I have forgotten something and will have to bring it up at the meeting. Hope to see you all there.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

Amateurs Need To Learn More

We as amateur should never become complacent with our training or preparation for the future, or do we? Once again 911 (September 11, 2001) is bringing to light the need for communications to be done with plain language. Amateurs who plan on helping during an emergency event need to update their training. Amateur Radio is a commodity that will be needed and used during an incident; therefore we need to be fully trained. FCC Rule 97.1 Basis and purpose states; (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications. For the past three years we have had the opportunity to take the three courses offered us by the ARRL provide by a grant from Homeland Security. While this was an excellent way for us to learn communications skills for passing traffic and the roles of leadership in the ARRL it has definitely left us unable to communicate with other entities, police and fire departments. So, we will need to step up to the plate and take a couple of additional courses, which are free of course.

As Section Manager (SM), I leave the training of ARES personnel to the Section Emergency Coordinator, Ron Dodson, KA4MAP, who for the past 8 plus years has done an exemplary job. This article is not meant to take from him any of his responsibilities but just to give an overall view from where I sit as SM and a District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for District 7. District 7 has been given notice by District Emergency Coordinator Rick Watkins, Area 7, that by October 1, 2005 all responding personnel will have to be IS-700 (National Incident Management System) certified. Now you ask, what is IS-700 NIMS and where can it be found? IS-700 NIMS is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) course that is free to the public. It can be found on the Internet at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>. I have asked the amateurs in District 7 to send me a copy of the e-mail that will be sent to them congratulating them on passing the course. When they receive their certificate from FEMA, send me a copy either by e-mail or snail mail. Each county Director will receive a copy of this certificate for their files and future use.

Director Watkins has also asked, but not made mandatory the need for IS-195 (Basic Incident Command System). This is a good course to take if you're not familiar with the command system in an emergency response situation. This course also gives us a good start on IS-700. Knowing who is who in an emergency situation will save you time. Know why they wear the vest they wear and what their responsibilities are and who they report to.

Big Brother, the Federal Government, in the near future will probably be asking us (better stated by telling us) to take IS-800 (National Response Plan). I found this to be an interesting course and one that will take a little time. But all of these courses should be able to be finished in the time allotted.

Amateur Radio operators are never finished learning when it comes to providing a public service. Remember, not only does our family depend on us, but our neighbors and friends also. How much time will you take to become proficient in emergency communications?

73

John D. Meyers, NB4K
Kentucky Section Manager

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...Dayton is nearly here?

...KG8CO is enjoying "old time" radio?

...K8AA is installing his "home brew" 40/30M Sigma antenna?

...W8LNR has bought a new 17/12M yagi?

...by the time you read this the MiQP for 2006 will be over? Did you participate?

...NU8Z went mobile for the MiQP?

...KG8CO, KB8ECG and KB8NVL did a multi-multi for the MiQP?

...**The pre-Dayton Adrian Hamfest has been changed to Sunday May 14...not Saturday the 13th?**

...W8TTX ran 40M in the MiQP contest from K8XXX...and did very well?

...K8KIC made 170+ cw QSOs and computer logged them in the MiQP?

...K8AQM is "thinning the herd" of his boat anchor collection?

...K8GX is getting into older "audio/stereo" equipment?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board met at the CAP building on March 27, 2006. Those in attendance were: Ginny W8TTX, Marjie KB8TMM, Larry W8LNR, Mark NU8Z, Norm W8TTH, Kevin N8JMN, and Dick K8GX. We discussed the Financial report balance of \$3,600.60 down considerably from last year; dates for HAM classes on April 22 & 29, with testing on the 29th, the MIQP Award, Dayton Expenses, and the Pre-Dayton sale.

President Ginny W8TTX called the Adrian Amateur Radio Club meeting to order at 7:30 at the CAP building on March 27, 2006. Roll call was by call sign with nineteen members present. The minutes were approved as published in the Tickler upon a motion by Harold WA8QPS w/ second by Nick KC8ONZ, motion passed. The treasurer's report by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$3,600.60. Motion to approve was made by Harold WA8QPS with a second by Nick KC8ONZ, motion passed. Marjie KB8TMM won the 50/50 raffle. Ginny W8TTX reported that we had some local club winners at the Toledo Ham Fest: Eric K8JWV won \$250 and Larry W8LNR was a soldering station.

Mark NU8Z talked about the NASCAR race ticket taking. It is off for this year. The slots have all been filled. He indicated that in order to participate we need at least twenty (20) people guaranteed in order to participate. We are on the list for next year. More discussion on this at a later date.

HAM classes are slated for April 22 & 29 (two consecutive Saturdays) with testing ON the 29th. Ginny W8TTX is requesting help. Brian KB8CO will contact Radio Shack and local radio stations about putting word out about the classes. He will call Ron KC8OGW for information.

Adopt-A-Highway is scheduled for April 22-30, July 8-16, and September 9-17, 2006. Need to find video so it can be shown to the volunteers. All interested in helping on any of these dates to call Neil KC8DAR.

Mark NU8Z brought up the QSO plaque, there was a motion by Kenny K8KIC with a second by Denny WE8Z to buy the plaque, motion carried.

Mark NU8Z brought up the Dayton Ham fest costs. The costs of the spaces the Club rents (three spaces) are \$270. Over the years the attendance of Club members using the spaces has dwindled. These spaces are free to Club members to use. It is a place to relax and visit and sell your "gear."

Brian KG8CO is to dispose of the "Silver Bullett." He is going to try EBAY or any way he can. Any Club member who wants the "Bullett", please contact Brian.

All business having been transacted the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Denny WE8Z with a second by Norm W8TTH. Meeting was adjourned.

Mark NU8Z had the program, via Power Point; those in attendance were divided into two teams, and played a game of HAM JEOPARDY. This was thoroughly enjoyed with participation high.

Respectively submitted by:

Marjie Willey, sub -Secretary

Something “Old” Becomes Something “New”

The wonderful thing about our hobby is the “variety” within it; there are “techno wizards,” “operating masters” “rag chewers” and”boat anchor lovers”. Brian KG8CO has taken an interest in boat anchor gear. Here is a snapshot of Brian’s “other” station. Along with his FT-1000mp and Alpha, Brian has a Heathkit DX-60B (transmitter), HG-10B VFO and a Heathkit HR-1680 (receiver). It was an interesting experience for Brian to learn the techniques of switching antennas from xmit to rx, loading a tube transmitter and figuring how to “zero beat” a station with his vfo. It’s a simple setup that Brian is having a lot of fun with and enjoying daily QSOs in those areas of 80M and 40M those of us who are “old timers” would call the “Novice” portions of the band.



Brian tells me he’s on nightly and even keeps a paper log of his QSOs just as we had too in the old days.

Brian has done very well with his station, using both a 40M and 80M dipole, he has worked over 40 station and more than 10 states in less than a month! Brian says the QSOs are “rag chew” and that many of the stations are very excited to hear what gear he’s running.

Next on the agenda, Brian has purchased a Ramsey 40M QRP transmitter running 1 watt on 40M. At this time Brian has worked 3 QSOs including Washington DC and all with 1 watt or less! Next month he promises pictures of the 1 watt transmitter and more information.

Rumor has it Don Miles KB8NVL is also QRV with Brian and running QRP!



Next Month: Details of the 2006 MiQP

Details of the 2006 MiQP and info regarding our club efforts will be presented. A sneak preview is in order due to the very rare nature of this picture. Yes, that’s our “Prez” manning the high volume operating position during the contest at the K8XXX station (@N8CC) in Barry County. Ginny did a great job and may be “hooked” in “running rate” in this contest.

Ginny and Norm road their motorcycles up to Jeff’s and joined the contest crew there for the contest.

Thanks to Eric K8JWV for the picture.



“Uncle Jeff” and the Crystal Radio Project



photos show how hard “the boys” worked and the fun they must have had. According to Jeff there was no trouble in picking up station there in the Battle Creek area.



To improve the presentation Jack’s dad connected a set of computer speakers which also were high Z and that allowed everyone in Jack’s class to listen to the radio. The radio with no batteries was a success in the science fair and of course Jack received a grade of “A” on his project.

It’s obvious “Uncle Jeff” is pleased with his nephew’s efforts. Could this be the opening of a door for Jack to enter our world of amateur radio? I’m sure Jeff would like to see that happen.

Helping someone discover the marvel of radio that “requires no batteries” and the excitement in building a successful radio is rewarding to both the builder and the helper. This seems like a great way to bring beginners into the hobby and something we could all promote while having a great time.

“Several” years ago N8TIB, KG8EF, KC8A and several others helped me build crystal radios with a group of fifth graders. Those fifth graders are now in their late 20s and I often hear from them how much fun that was. Be an “Elmer” to some young person and help them into our hobby, you won’t regret it!

Do you remember science fair projects from school? Jeff N8CC got himself involved in helping his nephew Jack (4th grader) with his school science fair project. Most school children today have no idea what a crystal radio is and how easy they are to build. You can see how “Uncle Jeff” and Jack planned and laid out the crystal radio and of course “Dad” helped the boys too!

A long random wire for an antenna, a set of high “Z” headphones, a diode, a hand-wound coil and some “TLC” brought the project to a successful end.

The series of photos



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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

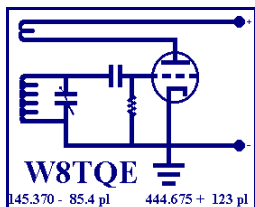
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September , 2006
Hamfest Chair Eric, K8JVV k8jvw@arrl.net

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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First Class