

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone,

The weather has been pretty good this year. Let's hope it continues to be nice all summer. It has been quite hot, but we won't complain too much.

We haven't been to any hamfests so far this month. I know there was one in Van Wert Ohio, but I haven't heard any details about it yet. There is one in Angola, Indiana in early August. These are both a couple of the smaller hamfests, but with any hamfest sometimes it is the people you go to see.

Our program this month will be presented by Phil Smith (K8HCL).

Don't forget to get on the computer and take your NIMS and ICS tests that Joe (K8YZA) has been telling us all about. We need to take the NIMS 700 and ICS 100 real soon. There are also the NIMS 800 and I believe ICS 800 and 200 to also take sometime in the future. Check out our website for important information, direct link to the test website, and answers to some of the tests. You can read Joe's article in the April issue of The Tickler for more details.

Just a reminder for everyone to get ready for next month's meeting. August as you know is the month of the AARC's Ice Cream Social. Once again this will be held at the home of Ted (K8AQM) and Judy (WD8LCH) Rachwal on August 28th. Their address is 1600 Wolf Creek Highway, Adrian, MI. Please bring your own bowls, toppings, and lawn or folding chairs. Once again Neil (KC8DAR) will be picking up the main ingredient.

Once again we need to thank Ted (K8AQM) and Bob (K2IBM) for the great jobs they do with the newsletter and the website. Please support them by sending lots of articles and pictures.

73's see you at the meeting,
Ginny W8TTX

The "OOs" Will Get You!

OFFICIAL OBSERVER ADVISORY NOTICE

Radio: K8AQM your call was heard calling N8KR at 15:10 UTC.
Date: May 18, 2006 Frequency 146.52 MHz Mode FM Your RST 5 4 4

The following is noted in the interest of maintaining Amateur Radio's reputation for good operating/technical practices: 1 ☐ FREQUENCY INSTABILITY 2 ☐ CHIRP 3 ☐ SPURIOUS 4 ☐ HARMONIC 5 ☐ HUM 6 ☐ KEY CLICKS 7 ☐ BROAD SIGNAL 8 ☐ DISTORTED AUDIO 9 ☐ OVER DEVIATION 10 ☐ OUT OF BAND 11 ☐ IMPROPER ID 12 ☐ LANGUAGE 13 ☐ CAUSING INTERFERENCE 15 ☐ CARRIER 20 ☐ OTHER

Remarks: I started monitoring at 15:10 and did not hear any ID until 15:24 when another station broke in.

Please refer to FCC Regulation 97.119. Please take a few minutes to determine what equipment factors or operating practices might have contributed to this apparent departure from the rule or the good amateur practice standard. The intent of this notice is to alert you to the above noted operating condition. NO REPLY IS NECESSARY. The undersigned ARRL Official Observer has fulfilled this helping role by simply alerting you, and is not required to reply to any correspondence. Thank you for your attention and any cooperative efforts to enhance the high standards of the Amateur Radio Service which we all share with pride.

Signature: [Signature] K8UVW
Mobile near Toledo Oh.

I got this while traveling to Dayton this year! I was mobile chatting with N8KR. Geez, some guys need to get a life! I haven't heard if Ken got one of these but it seems he should have one too since neither one of us had "the K8KIC timer" going.

73 de K8AQM

Radiosport IARU Contest 2006 @ N8CC

Every year there is an IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) sponsored world-wide contest. Without getting too technical about the contest scoring, there are special stations that count “extra”. One



such station is NU1AW which is the headquarters station for the IARU. Historically this station has been moved from call area to call area through our ten districts. This year it was NU1AW/8. Dave Pruett (K8CC) was responsible for the call this year in the 8th call area. And here begins the fun; rather than have one station running the call there were FOUR stations all using the call but not all operating either on the same band nor the same mode. The four stations using NU1AW/8 were K8AZ and KW8N in Ohio and K8CC and N8CC in Michigan. N8CC was given 10M CW and 160M CW as our bands to contribute to the NU1AW/8 score.

On the left is the 200 foot tower at N8CC which carries a 4 element 40M yagi @200 ft., 2 (stacked) 4 element 20M yagis, 2 (stacked) 5 element 15m yagis, and 2 (stacked) 5 element 10M yagis. Needless to say, that's quite a tower. W8IQ took this picture early Saturday morning at sunrise before the contest started July 8. We used the two stacked 10M yagis as our main antenna but also had a 4 element quad at 40 feet looking in a different direction. You can see the smaller tower in the bottom picture background and our 160M vertical in the fore-ground.

What was really “cool” and different was all four station were linked real-time to each other via the internet. What that means is as a station was worked and logged on any band every station (all four stations K8AZ, KW8N, K8CC and N8CC) saw it on the screen. We got quite a kick out of watching the rate meter record “650 QSOs per Hour”! We could even “chat” with each other live time and get packet spots too. It was quite a technical feat and K8DD and N8CC worked out all the details.

We also had stations on 15M, 20M and 40M which allowed us to operate as “K8XXX” just for fun when an operator wasn't working 10M or 160M as NU1AW/8. The N8CC station has all the bugs of intemod worked out which many major contest stations today still struggle with. So while W8IQ operated on 10M CW, NU8Z was answering /running stations on 15M CW as K8XXX.continued on page 4



AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

... KB8NVL is famous? Major article in the State Line Observer!
 ...free "stuff" was given to members of the Adrian ARC one Monday night from MCI?
 ...about the time you read this AARC members N8CC and K8AQM will be QRV in 5W?
 ...the ice cream social will again be at K8AQM's house in August?
 ...WE8Z has applied for a club license for the "Boyer operation?"
 ...K8ADM will soon house the 2M repeater at his 440 sight?
 ...W8TTH has "compacted" the 2M repeater to fit at the K8ADM sight?
 ...W8TTX made a major contribution to the KB8NVL article in the State Line Observer...read all about it?
 ...IARU multiplier "NU1AW/8" operated from N8CC's?
 ...KC8DAR had to cancel the trash pickup this month?
 ...W8TTH is putting together a "mini repeater" we could use at Dayton (440)?
 ...NU8Z has "crashed" his RC plane and it's "fatal"? Back to kit building on a new one.
 ...N8CC tried to run 40M on his 15M stack...didn't work either?
 ...K8AQM ordered 1000 "antique" QSLs?
 ...W8LNR STILL hasn't connected his antennas?!?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board met at the CAP building at 7:00 PM on June 26, 2006. Those present were Ginny W8TTX Norm W8TTH, Larry W8LNR, Neil Kc8DAR, Mark NU8Z, Marjie KB8TMM, Ted K8AQM, and Neil KC8DAR. Ginny W8TTX called the meeting to order. Topics discussed were Flyers and tickets for the AARC Swap, July program, trash pickup, August ice cream social, and the repair of a trailer owned by Gary which was used for the Dayton swap. It was moved by Norm W8TTH with a 2nd by Mark NU8Z and approved by the AARC Board to take care of any expenses involved to repair the trailer. Meeting adjourned.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the CAP Building at 7:30 PM. The 50/50 was won by Larry W8LNR who donated his winnings back to the Repeater Fund. Roll call was by call sign. The May minutes were approved upon a motion by Harold WA8QPS with a 2nd by Denny WE8Z. The Treasurer's Report was approved upon a motion by Neil KC8DAR, with a 2nd by Joe, K8YZA. The balance as of 6/26/06 is \$3,767.32 which includes \$694.00 in Repeater donations.

Old Business: Dues are do. Bob to be contacted so that he can put an announcement on the web site.

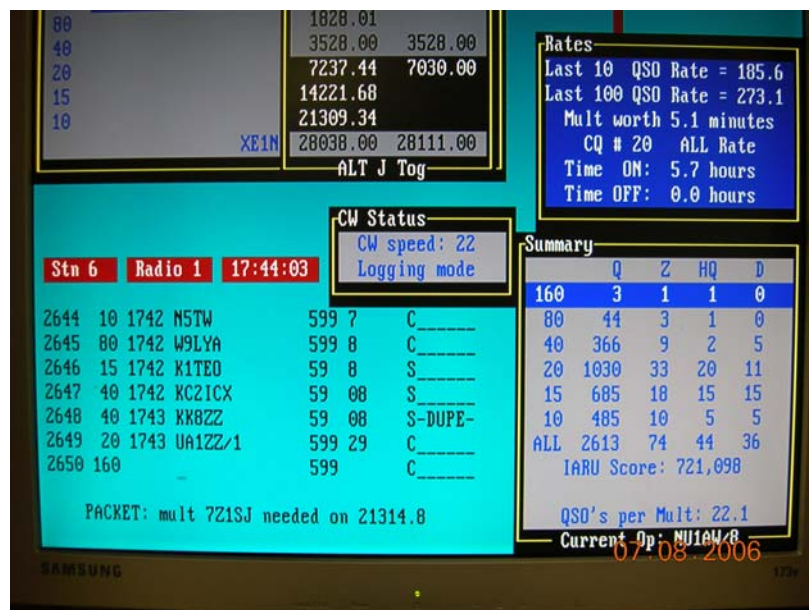
New Business: Joe K8YZA brought up an issue for AARC becoming a Gateway Station. He explained how it would work and be in conjunction with the Red Cross and other emergency situations that may turn up. After a motion by Joe K8YZA with a 2nd by Norm W8TTH the motion was approved that the Club would become a Gateway Station for a period of one year. Joe also reported on the availability of funds to Lenawee County to be used for Amateur Radio equipment during a RACES emergency. Joe K8YZA also reported that Lenawee County will have a drill on Friday, July 28, which will include Sienna Heights, Health Dept, and Bixby Hospital. Mock emergency situations will be handled. Volunteers from the Club are needed to bring their hand held and/or mobile radios and be stationed at one of the sites. More info at July meeting. After some discussion and a motion by Cletus K8TLT with a 2nd by DennyWE8Z, it was approved to move the Repeater to the new location. Norm W8TTH and Alec, K8ADM to head committee. Frequency coordination will by Alec K8ADM and Kevin N8KMN.

Motion to adjourn by Denny WE8Z, with a 2nd by Tom. Approved.

Ted treated everyone to another enjoyable program.

Respectively submitted by, Marjie KB8TMM, Acting Secretary

The picture below is a shot of our logging screen. It must have been taken during a slower time, only 273.1 QSOs for the past hour or so...slow! Not only could we see the stations worked but you could also see the frequency (above logged stations in the center) where each station was. We were only 5.7 hours into the contest and had over 2600 stations worked!



Below are pictures of NU8Z running NU1AW/8 on 10M CW while W8IQ plugs along on 160M CW (and this was at 1:00 PM, not "prime time" for 160M. We kept Cqing constantly and continuously on our assigned bands. K8CC wanted to make sure the 8th call area did as-well-as or better than last year's NU1AW/3 group did. Conditions being worse this year as we hit the bottom of the cycle it was going to take some very serious efforts from the 8th

areas best stations. We at N8CC kept-up our part of the program and beat last year's QSOs for 10M CW and 160M CW and although the same isn't true for all the band segments we did beat last years /3 efforts. N8CC has an outstanding station with both antennas and equipment but also a great group of guest operators who are extremely talented while maintaining the attitude that this is a hobby and something we do for "fun" to relieve the pressures of everyday life.



nothing is sacred. We eat well, laugh well, and contest well. When W8TTH and some of the other Battle Creek locals join us we have great discussions regarding radio and anything else that tickles our fancy. But beware when K8KS has the chance to join us! When

Within the Mad River Radio Club there are some members who think we are "not very serious" when it comes to our contesting from N8CC. They're right, but we are just serious enough to win while keeping in mind that it's all for fun. Where else could you go and find 35 wpm operators like W8IQ, NU8Z, K8DD, AC8W and N8CC and still laugh so hard you almost cry? There is plenty of operating time for everyone and almost



Kaz comes around we're all in trouble!

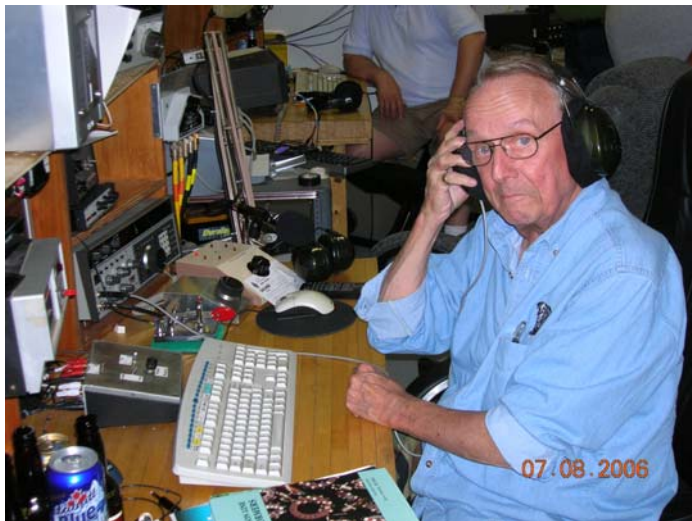
Here K8DD works 75M SSB for KW8N while he works on some beverages (that's antennas) while Hank also works on some "beverages" but of a different type! You should have seen /heard Hank twist and cajole QSOs on 75M during the afternoon when the band was dead. PT Barnum would have been proud of the boy!

We were really lucky to have N8CQA Buck, join us for the contest. Buck is friend from Port Huron days and has spent many great hours together with K8DD and AC8W contesting and enjoying "beverages." Buck is also a big mucky-muck in the Michigan QRP Club with K8DD and AC8W. Buck has returned to activity and spent the night roaming on 20M to the delight of us all.



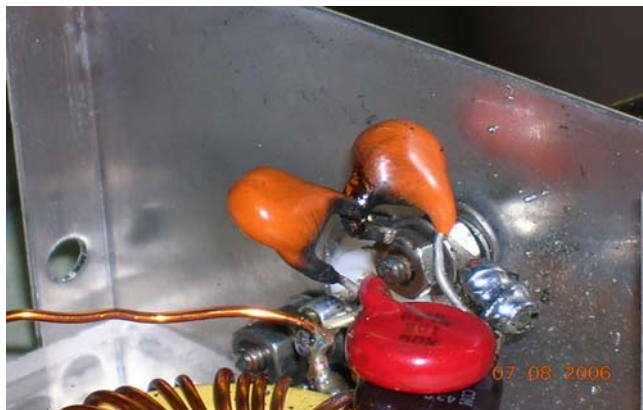
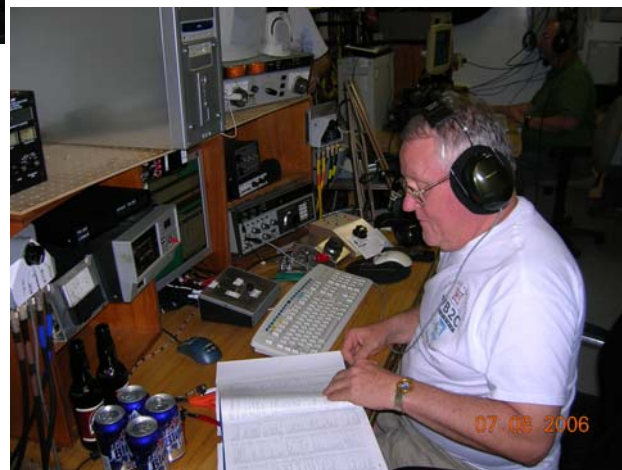
And then there is Stan AC8W. Stan has just recently retired (St. Patrick's Day) and is really enjoying retirement. Here he is running NU1AW/8 on 160M during the daylight (not a productive time). To keep his "brilliant" mind active he was reading up on filters. Well actually he had too because he blew-up N8CC's 160M bandpass filter! Just look at that guilty face below! Would you buy a used car from this man...not I! You can see the blown caps in the filter. That's what happens when you pass 1500 watts through a 200 watt filter, ugh!

That's the NU1AW/8 story from N8CC's place. We're rogues, or as K8DD says, "pre-diamonds in the rough which translates to a lump of coal!" But we get the



job done, we have a ball and I wouldn't trade operating from N8CC's place for the chance to operate "seriously" from the best contest station in the country! We've been called "beer-swilling, chili-slurping, less-than-serious contesters" and we are too.. but somehow we win often and still have fun. Maybe we should be called, "beer swilling, chili slurping, FUN LOVING...winners!" And to think we didn't even have chili this time around! See you at the next big event from N8CC's "palace of pleasure"...ha!

73...K8AQM



Surfing the Radio Waves



By JEFF PICKELL

A man in Kansas expresses his worries about the rise of Christian fundamentalism in America. A man in Indiana replies that he doesn't understand the concept of Christian fundamentalism. Shouldn't all Christians follow the fundamentals of Christ? he asks.

Morenci resident Don Miles nudges a dial.

A woman in West Virginia tells a man in the Upper Peninsula that she hasn't seen "Lost" yet, but she's a big fan of "Grey's Anatomy." The man strongly encourages her to watch "Lost."

Miles nudges the dial again.

Two women, chatting about who-knows-what, from who-knows-where, trade messages in Morse Code.

Depending on the atmospheric conditions, and a variety of other factors, the five or six boxes on Miles' kitchen table are sophisticated enough to put him in contact with the other side of the world.

Miles is an amateur, or ham, radio operator, and has been since he was about 14.

As a hobby, ham has been around as long as radio itself. Many inventors have been credited with devising the first wireless communications device—Heinrich Hertz, Guglielmo Marconi, Nikola Tesla, to name a few—so it's hard to determine exactly where the phenomenon started. What is known, however, is that by the turn of the 20th century, these first few innovators were sending Morse transmissions back and forth to one another.

From there, the radio fad caught on. Big time. By 1912, so many Americans had hopped on the bandwagon that Congress had to pass an act establishing professional and recreational frequencies. In 1979, the World Administrative Radio Conference met in Geneva, Switzerland, to lay out international guidelines.

Worldwide, there are more than 3 million hams, as the operators are called. So, what exactly are all of these hams doing with their radios, and how?

"I always tell everyone, what do you want it to be?" said Miles.

He says the reason ham is such an appealing hobby is that it is versatile—it appeals to tech wizards, astronomy buffs, antique buyers, competitors, collectors and people who just like to chit chat—ragchewers as they're called in ham lingo.

A basic trait all hams share is the urge to reach out for a connection, he says.

Miles' favorite activity is called chasing DX—trying to make contacts in as many different parts of the world, and as far away, as possible. Miles has communicated with hams from Russia, China, Africa, even New Zealand, and he didn't even have to become multilingual.

To get past the language barriers, international hams have devised a universal code which allow for

the exchange of basic information no matter what tongue they speak. The system is comprised of three letter "Q-signals" which allow for a basic exchange of information.

Still, some users aren't quite able to wrap their mouths around the English-based signals. For them, a special system of Morse Code has been devised.

"So, I can sit in my trailer in the campground at 1 a.m. and talk to Russians in the summer," said Miles.

To confirm that a conversation actually took place, hams often exchange QSL cards, personalized postcards that contain users' call signs, locations, and whatever other information they want to include.

For instance, some QSL cards include pictures of hams posing with pets, pictures of their radios, personal logos, even the logos of the radio clubs with which they are associated.

Miles has a stack of more than a hundred QSL cards—some from as close as neighboring Lenawee and Fulton County communities, some from as far as Brazil.

Part of the fun of DX chasing, Miles said, is it shows just how good a ham has become at manipulating and understanding the radio waves, shows just how far he or she can reach. And it takes a lot of studying and practice to reach the farthest ends of the Earth.

In order to get a call sign, users have to qualify for a license from the Federal Communications Commission. But it doesn't end there. There are a series of licenses to obtain, and with each one, the user is granted access to new frequencies and the privilege to transmit at a higher power.

It took Miles about 30 hours of study to earn his current license, which put him on the second highest operating level allowed inside the United States.

Miles has come a long way since he started dabbling in ham as a teenager. He and his father started toying with CBs in the 1970s, then moved on to ham when Miles was about 13. He regrets not earning his first license until he was 22, after he was decommissioned from his service in the Air Force. He was stationed in California.

"It would've made it a lot easier to talk back and forth with my family," he said.

Unlike other modes of long range communication, such as the internet, land lines, and cellular phones, ham users aren't anchored to a land-based infrastructure. When conventional methods of communication collapsed during the 9/11 attacks, the 2003 North America blackout and Hurricane Katrina, hams stepped in to help relay important information to local, state and federal authorities.

The diligence of hams on 9/11 even prompted FEMA to re-engineer its disaster-response system to take better advantage of the operational versatility the radios offer.

"I'm not tied down to anything," said Miles. "I can operate this out of my car. There are people who use battery power to operate. You can even run them off generators."

Miles would like to see more people, especially young people, get into ham radio. As computers and the internet grow more and more ever-present and sophisticated, he fears that kids will be less apt to explore the hobby.

However, surfing the net and hamming aren't mutually exclusive. On the contrary, finding novel methods of integrating the two is one of the burgeoning aspects of the hobby. The trick, says Miles, is communicating with the kids; youngsters have occasional trouble receiving signals from adults.

Lots of reasons to love it

One thing Morenci resident Don Miles likes so much about his ham radio hobby is there are so many ways to enjoy it. Adrian resident Virginia Schutte, president of the of the Adrian Amateur Radio Club, agrees. She says that, of the club's 65 active members, no two share the exact same interest in ham radio.

For instance, Schutte is a self-confessed rag-chewer—ham lingo for those who like to chit chat over the airwaves.

Other hams enjoy participating in the periodic state and nationwide competitions various organizations offer, in which competitors try to make as many contacts in a given area within a set amount of time.

"You'd be surprised how gung-ho some people get about it," she said.

Still other hams are into the hobby because they enjoy hunting down old, discarded equipment and restoring it to working condition. Some even like building their own equipment from scratch. Miles recently built a Morse Code transmitter from a tuna can.

Ham has also attracted many amateur meteorologists who enjoy collecting weather reports from their friends around the country.

There are also the DX chasers—hams who try to make contacts in as many parts of the world as possible. And tech junkies who specialize in adapting their radios to work alongside their computers. Some people even hook their radios up to their motorcycles.

As times change, ham seems to change right along with it, which may just be why the hobby has stuck around for so long.

A QSL for Working Tube Equipment

I enjoy collecting and using tube gear. Of course I still have my newer "high tech" gear but it is a pleasure to use the older gear when just rag chewing on cw. The older art of QSLing is still popular with the "boat anchor" collector gang and I thought it might be fun to have a special QSL made for those QSOs made with tube gear. So here's my new QSL that will be for those QSOs made with my tube gear. I ordered a 1,000 and as K8AA said, "Those will last you quite awhile." Dave's probably right but you never know, operating one contest could put a strain on the QSL collection. I might have over-done the back a bit.



Ted Rachwal Also: 5W0TR, V63KR, FP/K8AQM, KC6JJ, V73TR, FP0HRP,
1600 Wolf Creek Hwy 7J3ABO, KH6/K8AQM, KH8/K8AQM, KH0/K8AQM
Adrian, MI 49221 VE2USA, VE1, VE2, VE3, VE4, VE5, VE6, VE7, VY1 /K8AQM,
Lenawee County EN 71 Licensed in 1961 as KN8AQM

Tube gear includes: HT-37(2), Drake 2B(4), 75A-4, KWS-1, 75S-1, 32S-1, DX-60B, DX-60A, DX-60,
HR-10B, DX-40, DX-35, DX-20, Knight T-50, Drake 2NT, S-38A, S-107,
HQ-145X, 51j4, 32V2, 75A-1, HQ-110

Tube gear for this QSO:

Transmitter: _____

Receiver: _____

Antenna: _____

Confirming QSO	Date	Time	Band	Mode	RST

FISTS #11627, ARCI #8801, Michigan QRP # 1340, ARRL Life Member

73 es Tx for the QSO:

Pse QSL, Tx



W8TQE's New "Temporary" Home

Most of us are aware of the moving of the repeater from the WQTE tower to the WLEN (on Academy Road) where the K8ADM 440 repeater is located. This new location is more centrally located in the county, the tower and terrain are higher than our present location and there are no pagers operating at this sight. BUT! In order for this to happen the repeater was removed from the Sand Creek sight and will need to be re-housed in a smaller box before moving to the new sight. W8TTH and K8ADM moved the repeater to the TTH/TTX sight where it is back running again from the garage and connected to an antenna at about 120 feet on their tower. Everything is working as it was except now we have no pager interference. K8KIC still runs the Sunday night net and from home stations there appears to be no trouble connecting as usual. The photo on the left is of the TTH tower and the antenna at the 120 foot level. The tower is very secure and the antenna a very high quality Comet dual bander.

The photo on the right is our current repeater. The rack is a six footer and as you can see there is plenty of empty space in the bottom. A switcher power supply is to be used to eliminate the large existing supply and the radio to be installed in a smaller cabinet to fit our allotted space at the new sight.

How many of you have even noticed a change in the strength of the repeater since it was moved nearly a month ago? No doubt you have noticed there is no pager interference and that has to be an improvement! K8KIC accesses control via RF and is full control of all repeater functions.

When will the repeater be moved to its permanent new location? The word is "soon". A smaller cabinet has been secured and it remains only to disassemble the existing unit and re-assemble it in the smaller cabinet. We will continue to use this repeater until we have either a need to replace it with a newer model or an "unfixable" issue occurs.

Many thanks to K8NP who along with others, has kept this machine going for the past many years and to K8ADM and W8TTH for all their efforts during this new setup.



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K8AQM

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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

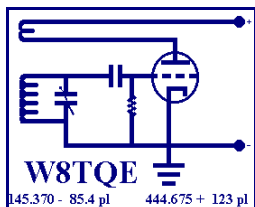
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September , 2006
Hamfest Chair Ray, W8RAY Marge, KB8TMM

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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First Class