



The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone. This winter has been pretty mild so far. Unfortunately, I hear the month of February is not going to be so pleasant. I hope everyone is wrong.

This year we will be doing the Technician class using the videotapes for two consecutive Saturdays as we did last year. We will decide the dates at the club meeting this Friday night. The class last year had the same success rate as our old system, but certainly requires less of everyone's time. We will however still need club support for the class and VEs for the testing date. I already have a couple of people who have contacted me and once the dates have been set, I will get back with them. Flyers and public announcements will also be put out as soon as possible.

We have had a poll on the website to determine if there was sufficient support to change the meeting night from Friday to Monday. According to the poll results, changing the night seems to be a relevant issue, therefore we will have a discussion at this month's meeting followed by a vote to make the final decision. If you want to be heard, come to the meeting.

Margie (KC8TMM) brought up at the last meeting that Randy McCloy, Jr. is a ham. He is the fellow that is the only survivor in the West Virginia mining explosion that claimed 12 other lives. She provided us with his address, so that his fellow hams could show support to him and his family. Please drop a card in the mail to show you care. The address is P. O. Box 223, Philippi, WV 26435 according to the FCC database.

Once again this year, Norm and I went to the Hazel Park hamfest on January 15th. It was a fairly well attended hamfest, but I think there were a lot more buyers there than vendors. I am looking forward to attending several hamfests again this year. February brings the Mansfield hamfest on the 12th and March of course brings the Marshall and TMRA hamfests. These are a good start to a new year of hamfesting.

Please check out the club website at w8tqe.com, if you haven't already. Bob (K2IBM) has done a great job maintaining the site. Bob can always use articles and pictures to put on the website. Contact him if you have something you wish to share.

I would also like to thank the editor of The Tickler, Ted (K8AQM), for the fine job he is doing with our newsletter. Please send articles and pictures to Ted, so he can place them in The Tickler. He can always use any information or gossip you may have knowledge to. Let him know if you got a new piece of equipment and what you think about it. Keep others informed of good deals and other ham related stuff. Ted's email address appears on the last page of the Tickler monthly.

See you at the meeting on February 3rd.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

ATTENTION ALL SE MICHIGAN HAMS, S CENTRAL MI HAMS, NW OH HAMS, & NE IN HAMS:

ALL LENAWEE COUNTY HAMS, WITH 2 EXCEPTIONS WHO TOOK TRAINING LAST YEAR IN CLINTON, ALL SKYWARN QUALIFICATIONS MUST BE REQUALIFIED THIS YEAR. THE SKYWARN QUALIFICATION IS FOR 3 YEARS. THE FIRST DATE IS 27 MAR 06 AT 1800 HRS. AT ADRIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY. FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT ATTEND, THERE WILL BE A SECOND CLASS OFFERED IN ADDISON, TIME & DATE TBA.

73 DE JOE, K8YZA
District 1 ARRL EC & RACES Radio Officer
Lenawee County ARRL EC
RACES Radio Officer

News from Alma Michigan

To the Adrian Radio Club:

I am the Trustee of the Alma repeater, which operates on the same frequency pair as the Adrian and Berrien Springs repeaters. For the past few months we have been experiencing sporadic interference, usually in the form of loud static bursts that sometimes are followed by voices. I believe that our repeater is being tripped by amateur stations who are accessing another repeater that shares our input frequency, or by stations who are operating simplex on our input frequency. Until now our repeater has been carrier operated. To block this interference we now have made our repeater tone-enabled, using a CTCSS tone of 100 Hz (I know that the Adrian repeater is open access with a tone of 85.4 Hz, and the Berrien Springs repeater is open access without a tone). I have shared this information with the Michigan Area Repeater Council, and I also am sharing it with you, so that you will know what your radio neighbor is doing.

Please let me know if you receive this communication.

73,
John Gibson, NO8V

Do You Know FISTS?

The March club meeting will have a presentation of FISTS. FISTS is a club. The Club has three straightforward and unpretentious goals:

1. To further the use of the Continuous Wave operating mode by maintaining and even increasing its use in the amateur bands. Also, by "furthering" we encourage amateurs to improve their personal operating skills and proficiency.
2. We encourage new and aspiring amateurs to use CW. And, at the same time, we encourage CW operators to improve their individual skills and proficiency.
3. Establishing and maintaining friendship through amateur radio goes back as far as the hobby itself. The Club not only encourages such friendships but also has proven to be a common ground

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

- ...K8AA came through his heart surgery with flying colors? Dave is recovering nicely.
- ...N8CC said he had a “brain storm” the other day? More than likely just a “partly cloudy” day!
- ...KG8CO is looking for a Viking Ranger? Anyone got one around?
- ...W8TTH loves this weather? The Gold Wing is on the road!
- ...K2IBM referred to K8AA as “the new bionic man”? Knee, ears and now heart! What’s next?
- ...K8HCL will be presenting the program at the meeting on “pics” What’s that?
- ...K8GX is up to a very comfortable 25 wpm cw QSOs now...thanks to K8KIC?
- ...K8AQM is now into “at least” one QSO on cw per day?
- ...The Michigan Antique Radio Club swap is February 4 in Farmington Hills?
- ...W8LNR has “disappeared” from our Monday night gatherings?
- ...NU8Z is planning on the March meeting for his annual “ham laugh-in” program?
- ...K8YZA is flooding the press with weather info and emergency updates?
- ...N8CC and K8AQM have booked their flight to 5W for the Dxpedition in August? Anyone want to be QSL manager?
- ...Randy KC8VKZ, the surviving miner from WV had over 13,000 hits for his address on QRZ.Com? Have you sent a QSL yet?
- ...Anyone interested in “Going to Hell”? Marge KB8TMM is!

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board met at the CAP building on January 6, 2006 at 7:00 pm. President Ginny called the meeting to order with the following persons present Ginny W8TTX, Margie KB8TMM, Larry W8LNR, Dick K8GX, Norm W8TTH, Mark NU8Z Neil KC8DAR and Bill KA8ARK. The Treasurers' report by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$4,246.61. We discussed Mark's letter to former members who have dropped their membership. We also discussed the possibility of the club taking tickets at MIS and the cost of the telephone to the repeater site. The board adjourned at 7:35 pm.

The Adrian Amateur Radio club met at the CAP building on January 6, 2006 at 7:47 pm with approximately 30 persons present. Rollcall was by callsign. The December minutes were approved as published in the Tickler upon a motion by Jack KC8A second by Ted.K8AQM. The treasurers report presented by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$4,246.61 and was approved upon a motion by Harold WA8QPS, second by Marion WF8F. Mark NU8Z discussed the results of the letter he wrote to former members who have dropped their membership.

He also suggested more members check in on 2 meter net on Sunday night. The telephone which has been in our name, at the repeater site has been cancelled and the radio station has been notified. As of this date we still have not been notified to remove our repeater from the site. Jim Anderson is here tonight taking pictures for the Races and ARES id cards. The club is considering changing the monthly meeting day to Mondays, as most of the members polled had no objection to that day. Randal McCloy, KC8VKZ, the sole survivor of the recent West Virginia coal mine accident is a Ham Radio Operator and it was suggested that club members might like to send him a QSL card. His address is PO Box 223 Philippi, WV, Zip 26435. In order to keep a record of persons present at meetings we pass around a sign-in sheet beginning with the February meeting. Ken K8KIC motioned that the club donate \$300 to the Civil Air Patrol to assist in cost of the furnace repair, second by Bruce KB8OXX. Motion passed. Motion to adjourn by Jack KC8A second by Don KC8OGW motion passed. Ted K8AQM presented the program tonight on his recent DXpedition to St. Pierre.

Secretary Bill KA8ARK

Proposed Band Map Plan For Lower Michigan

The following plan and map were sent as a "rough draft only" and is to be presented to all those concerned.

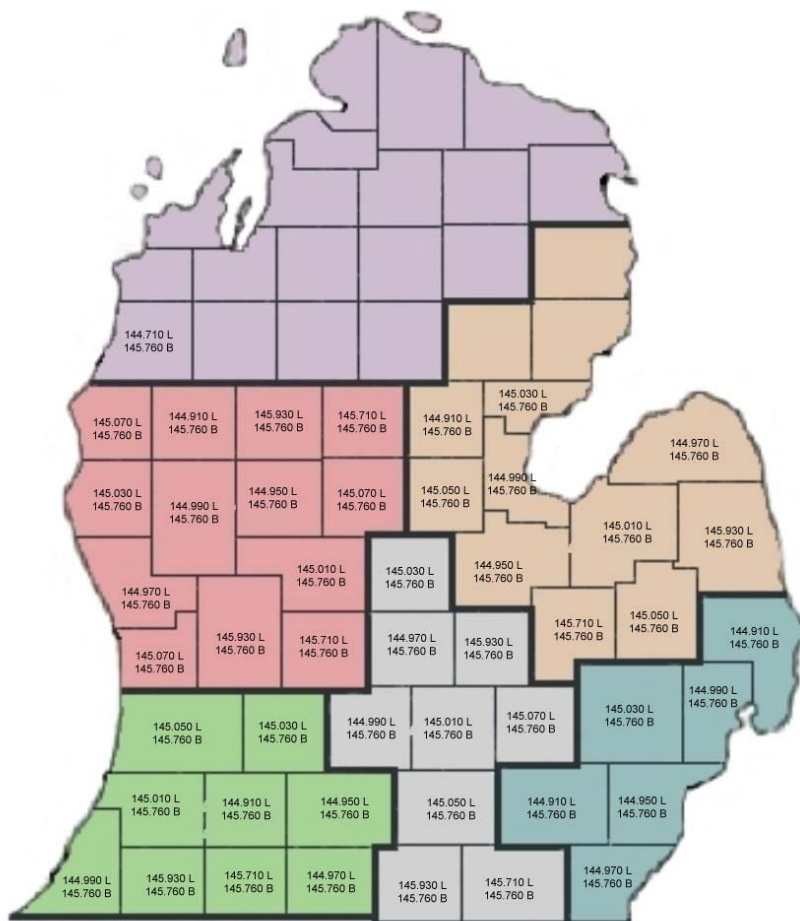
73 DE JOE, K8YZA
District 1 ARRL EC & RACES Radio Officer
Lenawee County ARRL EC
RACES Radio Officer

Jay, and Everyone,

Due to the weather I was unable to attend the Midland meeting, where I wanted to present my ideas, but I have been working on software that will allow us to work around local problems like this, as we look for local freqs. In brief, my idea was to not worry about district freqs but that each county had there own local freq to minimize interference and hidden transmitter problems. Also local freqs based on counties would also mean lower power needed to reach the places that needed to be reached. Knowing that several

of us have freqs that are already in use or interference problems with some freqs. I started to work on a program that would try to optimize separation from one freq to another by maximizing the distance between repeated and/or interference freqs. It would allow us to guide local counties on what freqs would work for them and their neighbors. It is far from done, and the problem can present its self in a non-solvable form, but I have a "SAMPLE" output of an early run. Notice that the word SAMPLE is in large letters meaning that this freq chart is by no means what should or will be. It is just one version of an output from the optimization. As well, it is not a complete run with the top part of the LP not filled in. Also this first draft image does not address the issues of a layered backbone and so it lists the 145.760 for all backbone freqs, which is one of many ways to go. All of this is part of a proposal I would like to put forth, in the near future, as an overall state wide layered network solution that is usable, maintainable, easy to implement, and practical. Maybe I should add,

friendly to our neighbors. I hope to have the time to finish the documents and studies in the February time frame. It sounds like this would have been helpful information at the last meeting and I apologize for not being able to make it.



Another Force 12 Sigma Antenna in the Area

By Kurt Meyers, W8IQ

Ted:

May I be the first to alert you that Force 12 is back in production? Yesterday, FEDEX brought me my Sigma-30 and this afternoon I put it together out in the driveway. I had to re-drill the holes for one of the top T-bars. Otherwise, assembly was straight forward. The instructions didn't tell me what to do with the rectangular piece of black plastic enclosed. But I remembered your Sigma V and installed it accordingly.

I leaned the antenna against one of the trees in the side yard and ran coax back toward the house. I started out with SWR 1:1 at 8.4 Mhz. After a little expansion of the loading coils, it was 1:1 at 10.1 Mhz. When I talked with the engineer at Force 12 some moons ago, I was told that this antenna without loading coils is their Sigma-20. I removed the coils and got nothing at 14 Mhz. I whizzed the freq range and got 1:1 SWR right at 21.025 Mhz. Now that I know the antenna's range, I can make my own coils for 14 and 18 Mhz.

I hauled the Sigma around to the back of the house where I could stick it into the ground and connect coax to my antenna switch box. The conditions back there are different. I didn't check the SWR before returning to the house.. Inside, its 1.5:1 at 10.1 Mhz. The dip has moved up to 10.5 Mhz. When daylight comes, I'll go out and scrunch the coils a little.

I turned on the rig and expected 9N7JO to be my first QSO. Unfortunately, no DX was to be heard. In fact I didn't work anyone. I compared U.S. signal reports with the other two antennas I use on 30 M and didn't see a whole lot of difference. That big Double L has a lot of capture area. After the Steelers pummelled the Bengals I returned to the shack. ZF2LC went into the log on one call. I had to throw on the coal to get 8P9NX. As I contined to tune, who showed up but R1ANN, Antartica. Aha! RST 589 on first call! And all three of these QSO's were "through the house".

That brings me to the last point. Some time back we discussed elevating these Sigma antennas. The instructions with the Sigma-30 address that. They say you can elevate these verticals so long as the feed point is no higher than 3/8-wavelength without deteriorating the radiation pattern. That would be about 36' on 30 Meters; 26' on 20 Meters and so on. Another reason for elevating the antenna is the matter of RF exposure. When warm weather is here to stay, I will seek to elevate mine above the roof line for a better view of the world.

PART 2

Since you introduced me to the Sigma family, I've been impressed. And course, there was that period of time in the contest on Miquelon when the Sigma V was the only antenna getting answers on 15 Meters.

There was a band opening on 20 Meters this morning and my Sigma-30 reconfigured as a Sigma-20 performed like a beam. Of 5 stations called, the only one missed was 4Z4UN who replied to a guy in Florida running a KW to 4 elements at 70' or something like that. The guy in Florida had visited 4X many times, so a long ragchew ensued. Never had a second change on that one. 73,
Kurt, W8IQ



Here are the picture Kurt sent of his "first installation" of his new Sigma 30 (on the left). The other two photos show the home-made coils Kurt wound for 20 meters and 17 meters. The Force 12 Sigma antenna design is a proven antenna. On two expeditions to 5W, one to the Caribbean and the latest to FP the Force 12 Sigma V proved it's worth and reliability....
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

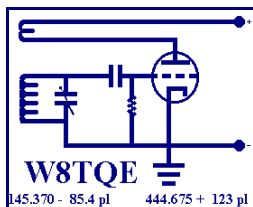
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

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

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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First Class