

The Ticker

From the Prez.....

Hi everybody. I hope your summer is treating you well. We can't ask for any better weather so far this summer.

I hope everyone is ready for the Ice Cream Social meeting next Monday night, August 28th, it will be held once again at Ted (K8AQM) and Judy's (WD8LCH's). We should all thank them for once again sharing their home with us. Their address is 1600 Wolf Creek Highway, Adrian, MI. Please bring your own bowls, spoons, favorite toppings, and lawn or folding chairs. Neil (KC8DAR) will once again be supplying the main course.

Norm went to the Jackson hamfest this month and said it was a lot smaller than in previous years. This was probably due to no trunk sales. The only vendors allowed had to be indoors. Don't forget the Findlay hamfest, which will be held on September 10th. There are usually a lot of vendors there. It is a good time for socializing.

Of course, you **MUST** remember our hamfest is the very next **Sunday, September 17th** after the Findlay hamfest. If you go to Findlay, please stop by our tables and pick up some of our AARC hamfest flyers. The more people that get exposed to them the more people may show up. Please get a hold of Margie (KB8TMM) if you can help in any way with our hamfest. September 17th will be here soon. I am sure there will be a place for you whether you would like to help setup or cleanup, help with the parking, or help in the kitchen. All help will be appreciated. Once again I can't stress this enough that the hamfest is where we get most of our money to keep our club and station operational. I encourage all of you to attend Monday's meeting to see where help is still needed.

From all reports I have heard Ted (K8AQM) and the guys had a great time on their trip to Samoa. I am sure we will hear some of the stories at the Ice Cream Social and I am sure that Ted will have a presentation for us soon.

I hope to see you all at the Ice Cream Social meeting on the 28th.

73 for now,
Ginny W8TTX

It Seems to Me.....Phil Smith K8HCL

(the insert article is taken from K8HCL's *EE TIMES*, Issue 1430 July 3, 2006)

The following article was passed along to me by K8HCL. I think there is some very good food for thought here. As you know Phil is an engineer and certainly when it comes to amateur radio Phil has one of the more productive and innovative minds. K8NP and K8AA definitely fall in this category along with several other club members.

Little exists today to train the mind to visualize and imagine

There have been several recent letters to Crosstalk regarding a lack of interest in engineering as a career (see June 19, page 28). Many of the really good engineers I have known got their first taste of electronics by building their first crystal set or regenerative short-wave receiver. The thrill of hearing those voices and visualizing scenes from faraway places, and the "kudos" from adults, ignited an excitement about creating things new that has never been quenched.



Kids nowadays aren't interested in crystal sets or short-wave receivers, or even home-built door chimes, amplifiers or Tesla coils. Today there is the Internet, cell phones with cameras and weird ring tones, digital TV with graphic presentation, and handheld videogames. And even though most of today's technology is well out of the range of the average youngster, tinkerer or hobbyist, this is not where the problem lies. The real culprit is this: There is little in technology or education today to spark the imagination and train the mind to visualize and imagine. Oh for the days of radio drama!

In today's media culture, I do not know what can be done to spark the imagination and the drive to create. However, I encourage all young engineers to make an effort to understand a little bit of the fascinating history of electronics. When you think that most design work was done with only rudimentary test equipment, the design of television is nothing short of ingenious. I suggest that they seek out an antique-radio club in their area. An antique car might be out of the price range of most of us, but anybody can own a working antique radio, feel the excitement of separating weak signals from atmospheric noise and bask in the interest his or her radio generates at the office. This kind of excitement is contagious.

There are still a few of us old-timers around—experimenters, tinkerers and engineers for life, who still can take soldering iron in hand and build something (from the seat of our pants, and not from a book or calculations) that in some regard works better than anything you can buy. And some of us still believe that real radios glow in the dark.

*Ed Mustoe, Engineer, Ed Mustoe Engineering
Austin, Texas*

I have to say I am only slightly above the "appliance operator" stage but even a little knowledge can go along way. On this past trip to Samoa, Murphy did an outstanding job of testing our imaginations, our ability to visualize and to quickly adopt solutions. We lost the use of some equipment; K2 transceiver, keyer, paddle, amplifier, blown trap on our 80M antenna, two sets of headphones, a logging computer, but this didn't stop us from regaining the computer...at least in DOS mode for logging.. rebuilding the 80M antenna and even improving it...a solution to the loss of headphones. The K2 transceiver, amplifier and keyer need some help yet. Without the skills, imagination and visualization of the crew we would have seriously reduced our output of QSOs and our fun.

Whether your radio "glows in the dark" or on the cutting edge along with NU8Z's computer radio, K8HCL's surface mount "pic" stuff or K8AA's "K3" transceiver, it will be to your benefit to become proficient in some area of the technical side of our hobby.

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...the 5W Dxpediton made 12,946 QSOs?
 ...KC8DAR ordered the ice cream 10 days early this year? What happened to “just in time delivery”?
 ...W8TTH helped KD8SF “acquire” a new tower?
 ...K8AA made every schedule for 5W QSOs when 5W0TR could get on?
 ...KG8CO has a booming signal into the South Pacific?
 ...K8AQM has some new “antique” QSLs?
 ...KC8DAR’s 17-12M three element yagi and 100 watts works great to the South Pacific?
 ...Using the 20M position on his MLA-2500 W8TTH got 650 watts out on 17M?
 ...K8AA is racing Elecraft to build a dual receiver K3 which AA calls the “K3”?
 ...NU8Z is checking into a “computer adapted” transceiver?
 ...September meeting will feature APRS presentation by N8TIB?
 ...November meeting will have a 5W0 presentation?
 ...We8z holds club call “W8WBB” That’s for the “Willis B. Boyer” Great Lakes freighter in Toledo?
 ...K8GX just took done a tower and tribander,,,thought they were suppose to stay up?
 ...K8AA brought back to life K8DD’s K2 radio?
 ...KG8CO went on vacation and actually left his radio gear at home? On purpose too!
 ...N8CC is a member of the Michigan QRP club?
 ...K8GX has an **awesome** stereo system?
 ...both W8TTH and K8GX are putting up 5 band quad?
 ...there will be a Monday night code class beginning in a week for 5 WPM?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board meeting was called to order by President Ginny W8TTX at 19:00 hours on July 31 2006. The following persons were present, Ginny W8TTX, Marge KB8TMM, Larry W8LNR, Norm W8TTH, Mark NU8Z, Bob K2IBM, and Bill KA8ARK. The financial report showed a balance of \$3,922.72. The board discussed the hamfest scheduled for 18 September 06. The meeting was adjourned at 19:30 hours.

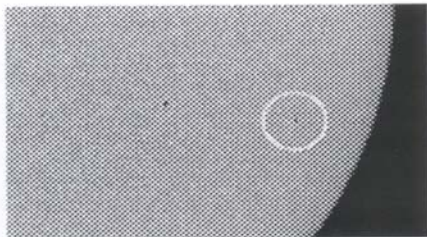
The Adrian Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order at 19:40 at the CAP building on July 31, 06 with 20 people present. The minutes of the June meeting were approved upon a motion by Bob K2 IBM second Harold WA8QPS. The Treasurer's report by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$3,922.72 the report was approved by Alan N8TIB motion second Joe K8YZA.

Old business: Joe K8YZA reported on the SET. Ken K8KIC was net control, Joe K8YZA was located at Senna Heights, Alan N8TIB reported from Bixby and Kevin N8JMN was located at the Health Department, thanks to all for their work. Adopt the highway was done by the convicts. Dues are still due. Next months meeting will be at Ted and Judy Rachwal's qth for the Ice cream social. Alan N8TIB will have the program for September on A.P.R.S. The Hamfest is scheduled for September 17. We need volunteers to work. See Marge if you can help. The meeting was adjourned, Alan N8TIBs motion second by Joe K8YZA.

The program was put on by Phil K8CL on Remote control airplanes.
 Secretary, Bill KA8ARK.

DX is Coming! Solar Cycle 24 is Coming!

If you're a Dxer then you follow the sunspots, if you're not then let me just say that sunspots (the number of) mean you will have good radio conditions. Dr. Bob K2IBM sent this along and although it's not the final word, things are looking better in the very near future.



August 15, 2006: On July 31st, a tiny sunspot was born. It popped up from the sun's interior, floated around a bit, and vanished again in a few hours. On the sun this sort of thing happens all the time and, ordinarily, it wouldn't be worth mentioning. But this sunspot was special: It was backward.

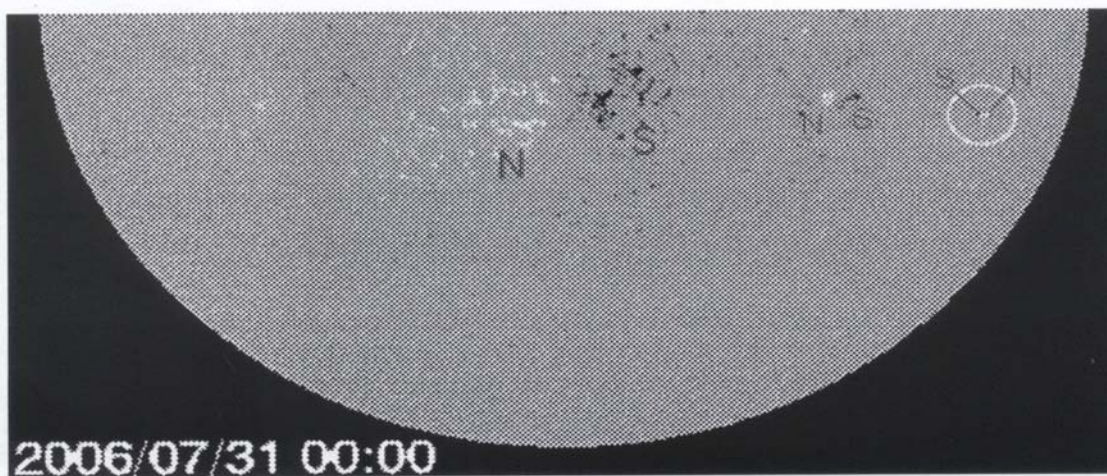
"We've been waiting for this," says David Hathaway, a solar physicist at the Marshall Space Flight in Huntsville, Alabama. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning."

Right: The tiny, backward sunspot of July 31, 2006. Credit: SOHO. [[Larger image](#)]

"Backward" means magnetically backward. Hathaway explains:

Sunspots are planet-sized magnets created by the sun's inner magnetic dynamo. Like all magnets in the Universe, sunspots have north (N) and south (S) magnetic poles. The sunspot of July 31st popped up at solar longitude 65° W, latitude 13° S. Sunspots in that area are normally oriented N-S. The newcomer, however, was S-N, opposite the norm.

A picture is worth a 1000 words. In the magnetic map of the sun, below, N is white and S is black. The backward sunspot is circled:



Above: A SOHO magnetogram of the sun. July 31, 2006.

This tiny spot of backwardness matters because of what it might foretell: A really big solar cycle.

Solar activity rises and falls in 11-year cycles, swinging back and forth between times of quiet and storminess. Right now the sun is quiet. "We're near the end of Solar Cycle 23, which peaked way back in 2001," explains Hathaway. The next cycle, Solar Cycle 24, should begin "any time now," returning the sun to a stormy state.

Satellite operators and NASA mission planners are bracing for this next solar cycle because it is expected to be exceptionally stormy, perhaps the stormiest in decades. Sunspots and solar flares will return in abundance, producing bright auroras on Earth and dangerous proton storms in space: [full story](#).

But when will Solar Cycle 24 begin?

"Maybe it already did--on July 31st," says Hathaway. The first spot of a new solar cycle is always backwards. Solar physicists have long known that sunspot magnetic fields reverse polarity from cycle to cycle. N-S becomes S-N and vice versa. "The backward sunspot may be the first sunspot of Cycle 24."

It sounds exciting, but Hathaway is cautious on several fronts:

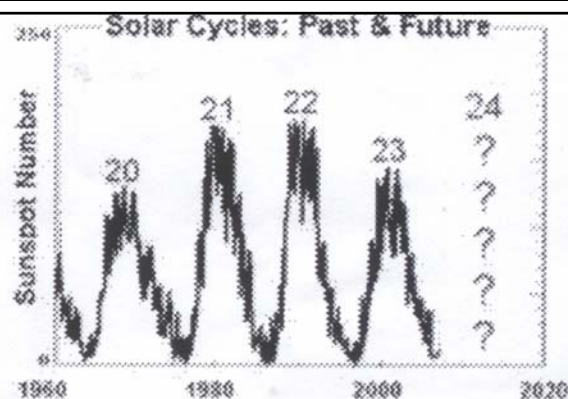
First, the sunspot lasted only three hours. Typically, sunspots last days, weeks or even months. Three hours is fleeting in the extreme. "It came and went so fast, it was not given an official sunspot number," says Hathaway. The astronomers who number sunspots didn't think it worthy!

Second, the latitude of the spot is suspicious. New-cycle sunspots almost always pop up at mid-latitudes, around 30° N or 30° S. The backward sunspot popped up at 13° S. "That's strange."

These odd-isms stop Hathaway short of declaring the onset of a new solar cycle. "But it looks promising," he says.

Even if Cycle 24 has truly begun, "don't expect any great storms right away." Solar cycles last 11 years and take time to build up to fever pitch. For a while, perhaps one or two years, Cycle 23 and Cycle 24 will actually share the sun, making it a hodgepodge of backward and forward spots. Eventually, Cycle 24 will take over completely; then the fireworks will really begin.

Meanwhile, Hathaway plans to keep an eye out for more backward sunspots.



Sign up for EXPRESS
SCIENCE NEWS
delivery

Solar Storm Warning (Science@NASA) — Researchers from the University of Colorado believe the next solar cycle (Solar Cycle 24) will

Ice Cream Social

When: August 28, 2006

Where: 1600 Wolf Creek Hwy, home of K8AQM, and WD8LCH

1/4 mile north of US-223 on the left (look for the tower), parking up the hill

Time: Meeting at 7:30 ice cream follows

What: BYO bowl, spoon, favorite topping and lawn chair. Club will provide the ice cream

Come chat, gossip, laugh and heckle! Photos WILL BE TAKEN!

President

Virginia Schutte, **W8TTX**
w8tx@yahoo.com

Vice President

Marge Willey, **KB8TMM**
maggie214@frontiernet.net

Secretary

Bill Groover, **KA8ARK**
billgro@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Mark Hinkleman, **NU8Z**
Cqnu8z@comcast.net

Executive Board

Neil Griffith, **KC8DAR**
njgriffith@verizon.net

Dick Denzel, **K8GX**
K8gx@tc3net.net

Norman Schutte, **W8TTH**
Norm@normsfab.com

Larry Lacy, **W8LNR**
W8LNR@aol.com

Editor Ted Rachwal
K8AQM

K8AQM@arrl.net

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

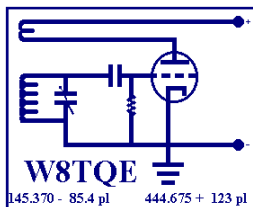
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September , 2006
Hamfest Chair Ray, W8RAY Marge, KB8TMM

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

www.w8tqe.com
adrianarc@mailman.qth.net



Adrian Amateur Radio Club
Box 26
Adrian, MI 49221



First Class