

# The Tickler

## *From the Prez.....*

Cold. Cold. Colder. Now we have been getting a lot of snow and a lot of cold cold weather with it. I am ready for spring or at least a little warmer weather.

Happy New Year to you all and I hope your year is starting out good.

Marjie KB8TMM reported that not many attended the Christmas Potluck that was held right before the last meeting. She did say those that did attend had a great time.

Norm W8TTH and I were not able to attend the December meeting, because we were in Florida visiting with our daughter, Tonya KC8DAP, our one year old granddaughter Shyanne, and Blaise (hopefully our future son in law). Blaise is a jet mechanic in the Air Force stationed at Eglin Air Force Base near Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Our youngest daughter, Robin, and one year old grandson Wesley also went with us. We all had a great time with them and enjoyed the 70°+ weather where they live. On the way back home we stopped in Lynchburg, Tennessee and took a tour at the Jack Daniel's Distillery. It was very interesting and smelled very good there. They offered us all we wanted to drink. Of course, it is a dry county so they offered us all the lemonade we wanted.

Norm W8TTH and I attended the Hazel Park Hamfest which was held on January 18<sup>th</sup>. There were quite a few people in attendance mostly because it is one of the first hamfests of the year. There were still a lot fewer tables set up with vendors than in previous years. All of us Hams must be crazy for going anywhere that morning. The weather was real bad that morning with snow all over the roads, so you couldn't even see the lanes. There were several vehicles in the ditches and the median on I-94. I was glad we did not join them. Of course, by the time the hamfest was over, the roads were just wet and not snow covered.

Make sure you send all of your important articles and pictures to Ted K8AQM, the editor of The Tickler, and to Bob K2IBM, our webmaster. They both are always in need of stuff to put into their work. Please show your support. You can see the website at [www.w8tqe.com](http://www.w8tqe.com) and can also find the Tickler there.

The meeting will be on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you all there.

73s,  
Ginny W8TTX

## Homebrew 'Paraset' of VE7SL

The other day I worked VE7SL on 80m. VE7SL was using a 'Paraset' radio and I had never heard of a 'Paraset'. Checking on the internet I found that:

*the Paraset was a small vacuum-tube transmitter-receiver unit built during WWII in the UK at the Whaddon Hall headquarters of the Secret Intelligence Service Communications Unit. Known officially as the 'Whaddon Mark VII', the units were either air-dropped by parachute or carried, by the jumpers themselves, into many of the occupied countries of western Europe. Designed for quick deployment and low-power requirements, the radios consisted of a two-tube (6SK7s') regenerative receiver and a single 6V6 crystal power-oscillator capable of delivering 4-5 watts into a makeshift antenna. The transmitter-receiver combination could be used on any frequency between 3 and 8mHz and I suspect that most field-agents had a variety of crystals to try and stay one-step ahead of curious enemy direction-finders. Large rhombics and high power at the Bletchley Park control station assured that the field agents could reliably communicate using their little Parasets.*

VE7SL has built his own 'Paraset' (Paraset might come from set that was parachuted in?). And sent a picture of the rig with his QSL. Wow, what a beauty! His QSL also has that "old" style to it. If



CANADIAN STATION	
VE	
Radio <u>K8ADM</u> Your <u>80</u> Meter CW sigs wrkd here on <u>JAN 3<sup>RD</sup></u> 20 <u>09</u>	
at <u>0346</u> hours GMT Readability <u>5</u> Strength <u>9</u> Tone <u>9</u> QRM <u>NIL</u> QRN <u>NIL</u>	
TRANSMITTER <u>4.8</u> Watts <u>6V6 XTAL OSC</u> Tube <u>295</u> D.C. Volts <u>32</u> mA	
RECEIVER <u>6SK7 REGEN</u> Aerial <u>3.5 MC 1/2 SUPER</u> Height <u>48'</u>	
REMARKS: <u>GREAT TO WORK YOU ON 80 WITH MY PARASET!</u>	
<u>TNX FOR 80M STATE # 29 TED. HOPE CU AGN. HNY!</u>	
<u>MAYNE ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA</u>	
<u>SKCC No. 2135</u>	Site 28, Comp 54 Bayview Drive V0N 2J0
Pse Ur QSL	Chief Operator: Steve McDonald
	CUL, 73

You'd like to read a terrific article written by VE7SL on how this set was built just check out the web site here, <http://imagenisp.com/jsm/PARASET.html>. It's a great read with plenty of pictures.

Steve is working "rock bound" on 3525.5 KHz and trying to work all fifty states. I was number 29 for him. Steve has also worked several DX stations with his Paraset. Here are the specs on the Paraset: Rx: 6SK7 Regen detector and 6SK7 Audio Tx: 6V6 Xtal Power Oscillator at 5 watts

## Echo Link Returns

Word from K8ADM Al is the Echo link is back up and running on his machine. Contact Al at: [k8adm@hotmail.com](mailto:k8adm@hotmail.com) for details on using Echo Link.

## Pile UP Magazine

If you're an ARRL member you have the opportunity to be sent the monthly **ARRL Contest Update** via email. Even if you're not a contester there are many great articles about radio, shacks, antennas and people. In this month's issue along with several other good articles is a tip to check out the Finish contest magazine **Pile UP**. The magazine is in English and in PDF format for down loading. There are some fabulous articles and pictures of antennas well worth seeing. How about a three element 80m yagi and two element 160m yagi (rotatable) at over 300 feet! The we site for this magazine is given below. Check it out, it's amazing!

<http://www.helsinki.fi/~korpela/PU/PU.html>

## AARC Club Gossip! .....

### Did you that ...

... K8KIC **DID** get his Santa wish, a TS-480! Way to go Ken, you were a good boy!

... K2IBM is off Dxing without a rig to Latin America? (*ed: ugh! I couldn't live like that!*)

... KD8DNV has a new shack computer?

... K8AQM is getting W8ZJE's old Viking Valiant ready to rock on 40m CW?

... W8TTH wishes he had taken his radio to Florida last month?

... Kudos go to NU8Z and K2IBM for running last month's club presentation?

... W8LNR seems to have "disappeared" from the Monday radio gathering?

... K8GX is making great progress with his hip surgery?

... WA8UNC is now a Silent Key? Nuts!

... K8AQM's new shack was used for the K3Y/8 straight key event? Great fun!!!

... K8AQM's new shack was full of "bugs"? The dit-dit kind!

... W8TTH and KC8TQB drove to Kansas for truck parts?

... N8AMM wouldn't put his dipole up in the last big snow? What a wimp!

... K8AA offered to bring a dead mouse into K8AQM's new shack so it smells "right"?

... KR8W use to be KD8IFM? Way to go Gerry!

... KD8IQO passed his General and has a new call coming?

... K8KIC has "deep pockets" for cashews?

... K8UV's shack was so cold he needed three dogs and a cat to stay warm the other night?

... K8KIC has trouble finding room on his desk for his "two" HF rigs?

... N8CC sends left handed on a right handed bug?

... K8KS wears a "wolverine" on his head?

... K8ADM checked into the 10m net this month?

... W8LNR is thinking about putting up a "beverage antenna"?

... K8GX is back to driving now?

... K8KIC is working weekly as "K3Y/8" and working with a straight key?

... K8AQM is restoring N8CC's old J-36 bug?

... K8AA helped K8KIC install Ken's 500 Hz cw in his new TS-480?

... Talk is K8GX needs a Lazy Boy for his shack, anyone got an "extra"?

... K8AQM will be QRV as KP2/K8AQM next month?

... KD8IQO, soon to be W8IQO, built his own open-wire ladder line?

**Needed: Anyone got an old TV antenna and/or FM antenna they'd like to part with? Needed for the new shack here at K8AQM. Will take down if needed and safe to do so.**

## AARC Club Minutes

The December meeting of the Adrian Amateur Radio Club was held on the 31st at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport beginning at 6:00 pm. 17 members, spouses and friends were present. The main activity consisted of a potluck meal followed by a Powerpoint presentation prepared by Ted K8AQM showing pictures of a number of radio shacks with much discussion about the various equipment pictured. There was no official business meeting held.

Secretary Bill KA8ARK.



## Multiop-Multi-transmitter At K3Y/8

This K3Y year has been a blast! Celebrating the third anniversary of SKCC, the K3Y stations have rolled-up huge numbers of QSOs. Using a straight key or “bug” is somewhat a “lost art” and even more so than CW. But the Straight Key Century Club strives to keep both alive and to that extent the “new” K8AQM shack was christened with a multiop-multitransmitter operation running the club’s special event call K3Y.

We had three stations quickly setup in the new shack and had two scheduled periods of time to use the call K3Y/8, Saturday night 8:00 PM until midnight and Sunday from noon until 5:00PM. Below are some of the photos from the Saturday night crew. That’s Rich K8UV and Gerry KR8W manning the 160m position along with Ken K8KIC and Ron KD8IQO at the 80m position. The third position was 40m and that went to anyone who was “free” to operate. Mother nature tried to throw us a curve with 10



inches of snow but these hardy operators could not be stopped! Norm W8TTH and Dave K8AA stopped by to give us their “moral support” (ha!). It was a great evening of laughs, QSOs, chili, chips, cashews (man, K8KIC can really pack those away!) and of course “various beverages”. The best part of an operation like this is the fellowship with the guys involved. Yes we made some good QSOs but we sure had the laughs and that’s even more important.



This event is not a contest so it’s fun to just chat and take it easy. As you can see by the pictures below we take our fun very seriously! There were several times when none of us were on the air and all of us were laughing and yacking!



And who is that in the bottom picture with K8UV? Why, I think it’s “Mr. Kilian” himself who came along to make sure we had sufficient 807s on hand.

On Sunday a different crew came to “play”. Don N8AMM, Jeff N8CC, Kaz K8KS and Al K8ADM came along with one of the guys who helped me build the new “Rat Cave” (name change from the old “White Rat”), Roger Young. Poor Roger had no idea what he was walking into

but quickly recognized that “fun” was the name of the game here. Pictures on the next page show the Sunday operation. It was interesting to see Jeff N8CC use a bug left-handed but in a right hand mode. Is



that a look of concentration or is Jeff “sleeping” because the CW speed is so slow? And of course count on Kaz K8KS to show up



with a "wolverine" head-hat and the big maize and blue "M" on the back.! Looks like the only serious guy here was Don .. poor Don! It was great to have Don N8AMM come and operate that third station. Don managed to snag a G4 on 30m at 1:20 in the afternoon while running 100 watts to a dipole, nice catch!. N8CC kept himself busy running on 40m with good results. There was a lot of CW activity in the 7.114 MHz range on 40m. With just 100 watts and a "shorty" 40m antenna Jeff was continuously busy.



K8KS Kaz kept the SKCC guys happy on 20m with the 100 watts and the log periodic. We didn't get any requests to QSY to 17m and 12m which was a bit disappointing.

As you can see below we took time out to chat and eat. All the chili was "eliminated" and no one was dying of "thirst." Thanks to "Mr. Kilian" we again cooled the chili off but also thanks to Rich K8UV, who brought a shack warming gift of "peppermint schnapps", we kept warm. K8KS insisted the schnapps be served cold so after an hour in the snow bank we celebrated the operation with a pinch of schnapps! Thank you Rich!

What a great way to bring the new shack on line! There is plenty more work to do but this first effort gave us 105 QSOs and a lot of fun! The setup was a "quickie" temporary thing but it looks like there will be lots of fun from the new "Rat Cave". Thanks to all the guys who helped me through the building project and thanks to those who came and operated and make it all worth while.

73,

K8AQM





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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 28.328 +/-QRM  
Thursday slow speed cw local chat at 8:00 PM on 28.050 +/- QRM

### Local Area Repeaters

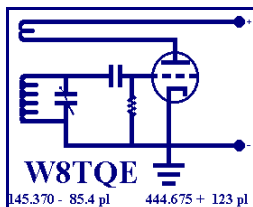
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan  
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

### Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September , 2008  
Hamfest Chair Ray, W8RAY Marge, KB8TMM

### AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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**First Class**