

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

It has been a little wet lately, but at least it has not been too cold for the end of November. I guess we should consider ourselves lucky. Winter can hold off as long as it wants.

Marjie and I would like to thank you all once again for our re-elections this year.. I hope we have a great year and I hope all of you can make it to the club meetings. Remember they are always held the last Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Once again we were at the Fort Wayne Hamfest on November 15th when deer season started, so Norm W8TTH missed the first day again. Hopefully he gets in a few good days of hunting before the season is over this year.

The Fort Wayne Hamfest was pretty well attended on Saturday, but not very many were there on Sunday. I saw quite a few of our club members there. It was good to see you. It is always good to see and talk to all of our fellow hams. That is always the best part of any of the hamfests we attend. Let's face it; we love to talk that is why we love our hobby so much. The sales were also quite nice this year. Once again this year we went down on Friday to set up our tables. That way we don't have to rush around on Saturday morning. On the way to Fort Wayne we took a side trip to Auburn, Indiana and visited a couple of the museums. Norm and I stopped at the World War II and the Kruise Museums. I should have taken Thursday night off from work, because I sure could have used the sleep since we left earlier than I had planned but it was still a great day. The museums were awesome. We once again visited one of the local Japanese restaurants and ate sushi on Friday night with our friend, John KG8XG, from Holland, Ohio. We all had a great time and ate too much as usual.

Our Board member election will be held at the meeting on November 30th. We only need to elect three and the nominees are: Dick Densel K8GX, Dave Goodrich KC8TQB, Larry W8LNR, Don Miles N8AMM, Ron Prater W8IQO, and Norm Schutte W8TTH. Please make sure you come to the meeting and vote.

I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving Holiday. Share the time you have with your friends and family.

Don't forget to check out the website at www.w8tqe.com and get any new information and pictures to Bob K2IBM. He is our web master and we need to support him and the club; get him articles and pictures.

As I mentioned before the meeting this month will be November 30th, I hope to see you all there.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

Down She Goes!



This past month saw the removal of the old windmill tower at the C.A.P. building. This tower held our amateur radio antennas as well as the antennas used by the C.A.P. for communications. The tower held a TA-33, our 2m/440 antenna, the 80/40 dipole and three C.A.P. antennas. The tower was removed by Floyd's Rigging with W8TTH and K8AQM present from the club along with several airport officials. The rigging company arrived at 8:00 AM with two cranes and a service vehicle. Fortunately the morning was crystal clear, although a bit chilly. It took the riggers about a half an hour to setup and then cut the legs of the tower with a torch. You can see the set-up of the two cranes in the pictures on the left.

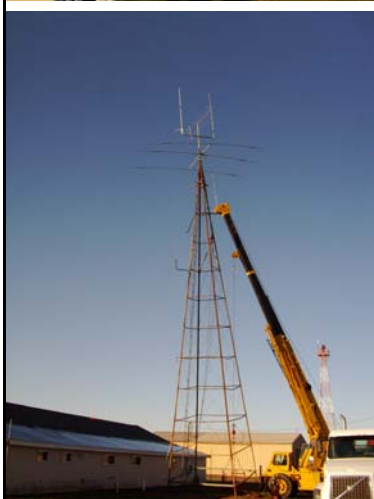
The actual lowering of the tower went very smoothly with no issues. The three pictures to the right show the sequence of the tower coming down. It took the crane only about one minute to gently lower the tower to the ground level where W8TTH could quickly and easily begin to remove the antennas. The TA-33 was dismantled and stored outside the C.A.P. building and the vhf/uhf antennas were taken inside the C.A.P. The rotor was removed to return to Bruce KB8OXX who had loaned the rotor to the club several years ago.

The new EOC tower will be installed at the site of the old tower. This tower will be approximately 100 feet and will connect wirelessly to the downtown EOC building. The tower will not have amateur radio antennas on it at this time but will have C.A.P. vhf/uhf antennas.

Adrian ARC has a 40 foot retractable tower that will be installed at the rear of the C.A.P. building and will have our amateur antennas on it. There will be a cement pad installed to support the free standing tower. A new rotor will need to be purchased and of course a cement pad will be installed. At this time there is no scheduled date for the installation of our tower.

The old tower was given to W8TTH by Floyd's and Norm was able to dismantle and haul away the tower the same day. It was a project well done with all antennas safely removed to be reinstalled in the near future. No set date is known at this time for the EOC tower to be installed.

By K8AQM



This month's program will be a DVD of 10 of the greatest Dxpeditons in the last several years. The program will last about 40 minutes.

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...Every time K8KIC and WE8Z are partners in euchre they lose ... big time?
 ...K8NP walks with a limp, due to all K8KIC's quarters he has won?
 ...KR8W has his many-wire antenna and homebrew auto tuner up? Now a big 10m signal!
 ...KC8ITC cooked up four turkeys for his church?
 ...Fort Wayne Hamfest was "loaded" with Adrian ARC members? K8YZA, K8NP, K8KIC, K8AQM, WE8Z, K8YCA, W8TTH, KG8CO, W8TTX, and N8KR ... were all there!
 ...K8GX bought a "keyboard" piano for his wife? Brownie points!
 ...K8UV is piling up the DX on 30m with his ZL Special antenna? 80 plus countries!
 ...KB8OXX will finally get his rotor back he loaned the club?
 ...K8AA says just turning his Alpha amplifier on scares the DX to work him before it even warms up?
 ...K8UV is planning to get an Alpha amplifier, an Alpha 77 DX (BIG!)?
 ...the 10m nets (28.328 MHz) on Tuesday/Thursday evenings at 9 PM are going strong, cw at 8 PM on 28.050 MHz?
 ...K8AQM put up an "NU8Z Special" for 80m, first QSO was with 9G5TT?
 ...TNX to W8TTH our antennas from the old windmill tower were safely removed?
 ...KC8TQB Dave has a TA-33 up? We hope to hear him on 10m now?
 ...K8AQM is enjoying the EZNEC antenna program? Wait till next summer!
 ...the Boyer is now closed up for the inter?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board was called to order by president Ginny W8TTX with additional members Marge KB8TMM, Larry W8LNR, Norm W8TTH, Bob K2IBM, Mark NU8Z, and Bill KA8ARK present. We discussed nomination and election of officers and board members. We also discussed ways to dispose of Bob Ingersol's estate. Adj: 7:30pm.

The Adrian Amateur Radio club board meeting was called to order by president Ginny W8TTX at the Civil Air Patrol building at 7:44 pm on October 26, 2009. There were 24 persons present. The September minutes were approved upon a motion by Ken K8KIC, second by Bruce KB8OXX. The financial statement presented by Treasurer Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$5,633.74 and was accepted upon a motion by Dave KC8TQB second by Bob K2IBM. Joe K8YZA reported that there will be an Emergency Contest this Sat at 11:00 on 2 meters. Norm W8TTH moved and Denny WE8Z seconded that a \$600 donation be made to the Civil Air Patrol. Motion passed. Motion Ken K8KIC second by Ted K8AQM approving the purchase of concrete, if needed, for the clubs tower. Motion passed. Nominations for president were for Ginny W8TTX and Margie KB8TMM, Bill KA8ARK for secretary and Mark NU8Z for Treasurer. Bob K2IBM moved for nominations to be closed. Votes were taken with Ginny W8TTX being declared president and Margie KB8TMM vice president. Don N8AMM moved to destroy ballots. Nominations for board members were as follows: Norm W8TTH, Larry W8LNR, Dick K8GX, Don N8AMM, Ron W8IQO, and Dave KC8TQB. Denny WE8Z moved to close nominations which are to be voted on next month. W8IQO moved to adjourn, second by Dave KC8TQB.

Secretary Bill KA8ARK.

30m Half Square for JD1

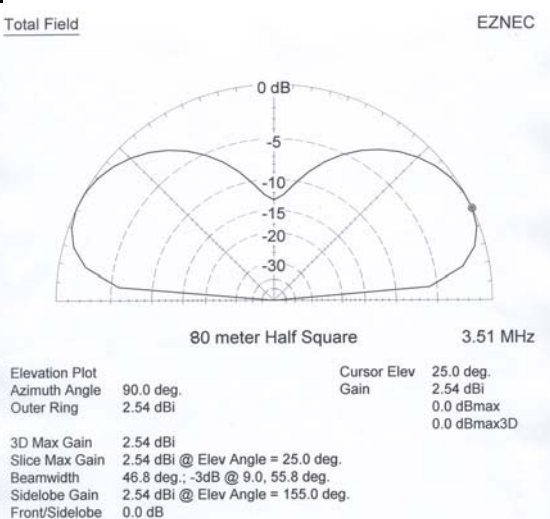
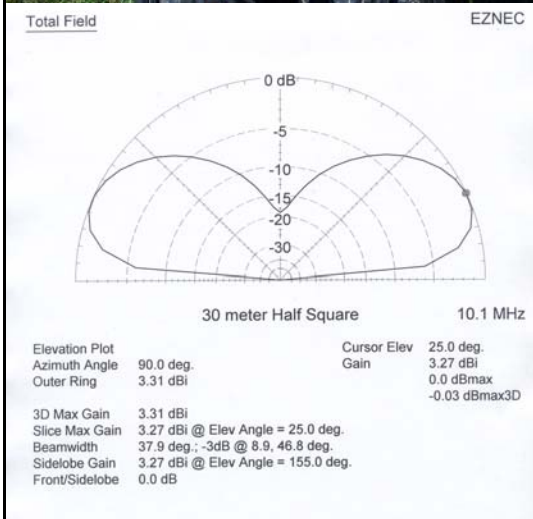
Preparing for a major Dxpedition requires a lot of planning. Most of you know that KG8CO and K8AQM along with K8QKY, AC8W and JF3MYU will operate next April from Ogasawara Island (JD1). We hope to emphasis 30-160m and to focus on the US. Since transportation is costly for equipment we've been looking at various types of antennas that will be light weight, inexpensive and proved gain in a favored direction. At this point in time it looks like we'll be making and using a "half square" antenna for 30, 40 and 80m. The half square is two quarter wave verticals with a half wave connecting them at the top.

KG8CO and K8AQM made a 30m half square for testing at KG8CO's QTH. Two 32 ft fiberglass DK9SQ collapsibles were used with #23 wire. The antenna was very easy to install and with feeding at a high voltage point, a tuner was required. You can see the layout of the poles, antenna and tuner to the left. The antennas were modeled with EZNEC and the figures and pattern of the antenna are shown below for both the 30m antenna and a "slightly" modified 80m half square antenna. The 40m and 30m antennas fit nicely with the 32 foot poles while the 80m antenna will be based upon a modification found on the web.

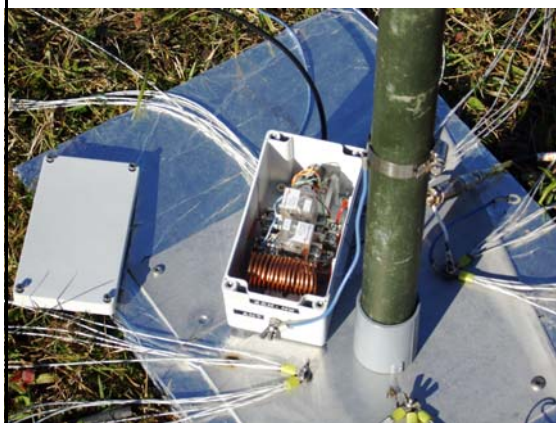
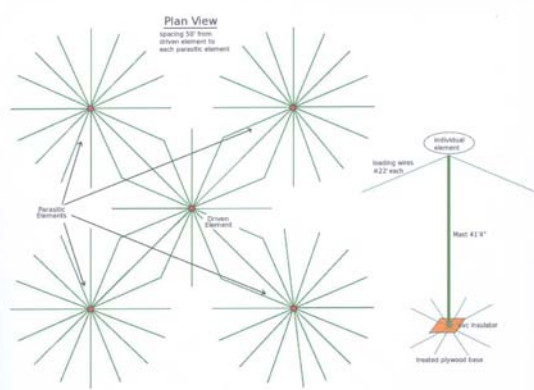
The take off angle for these antennas is roughly 25 degrees and that will work well for our QTH site and it's surrounding hills. The pattern is broadside to the antenna.

If you feed the half square at the top then it is a direct match with 50 ohm coax but you need to come off from the vertical at a very steep angle (the closer to 90 degrees the better). No radials are required for the half square which helps reduce construction time and the need for transporting additional wire.

Our goal now is to come up with a 160m meter antenna that will have vertical polarization and can be easily transported and quickly installed. Anyone have a "magic" 160m antenna they can share with us?



How About A 5 Square for 80m?



You've seen the articles about the N8CC with the full size 1/4 wave vertical for 160m, the 4/4 20m stack, 5/5 15m stack, 5/5 10m stack and the other "support antennas. Here is Jeff's latest effort for 80m. Not satisfied with the 1/4 80m vertical, Jeff has now erected a "5" square for 80m. The traditional 4 square is a phased array with coax linking the elements given one driven and three reflectors. The 5 square is like have 4 three element yagis (parasitic elements) with the ground having one side of the yagi. The photo to the right is a long view of his 5 square and the drawing below explains how it works. Each of the four corner elements can be switched to be either a reflector or driven element. All elements are shorten verticals with a top "T" wire to bring them in resonance. The third pictures illustrates the coil and relays necessary for the element to become either the director or reflector. The vertical elements are made of aluminum military mast that you now see at all the hamfest. The radials are slightly over 40 feet rather than the traditional 1/4 wave (66 ft.). I believe Jeff mentioned there are about 60 radials at each vertical and tied to a foil covered treated piece of plywood. Jeff uses a pvc sleeve to insulate the vertical from the ground.

Based on an idea presented in the antenna handbook and proven by K3LR super station Jeff models each element using his computer to correctly adjust the length of each element for maximum gain when used as a reflector or director.

Thanks to W8DA Wolf, Jeff has computer program to select the direction to switch the antennas. With a click of the mouse the antenna direction is changed.

Last November I used three of the verticals to give me NE and SW and I worked over 100 countries and 500 QSOs. That score was good enough for 2nd Place USA and second Place North America in the 80m assisted category. With two additional directions (NW and SE) and coupled with N8CC's great beverage system I'm looking to do even better this year. Jeff has put a lot of time, effort and expense into developing this 80m array and all the work looks extremely promising.

In addition to K8AQM on 80m this year, KT8X will run 160m, AC8W will be on 40m, K8DD handles 20m, with another operator on 15m and K8QKY will be at 10m operating in the CQ World Wide CW Contest. Pictures and results will appear in next months paper.

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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

Local Area Repeaters

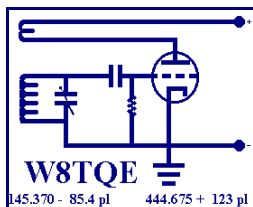
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 32th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September , 2010
Hamfest Chair Ray, W8RAY Marge, KB8TMM

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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First Class