

# The Ticker

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

Hello everyone.

I wish winter was over with already. It is sure mixing things up this year. It gets warm and rains for a few days and then it snows and makes a real mess of things. I will be glad when it is over at least for this year.

Norm W8TTH and I went to the Livonia Hamfest on the 15<sup>th</sup>. This was the first time we have ever been to it. It was in a real nice location and a lot of people attended it. It was in the Senior Center and there were two rooms both of which were filled. The roads were very slippery that morning and there were several vehicles off the road. Most of the vehicles were just slid off into the ditches, but there were others that were more serious than that. We even had a deer run out in front of us. It didn't look like it had very good bearings either as it was slipping when trying to get off the road.

Norm W8TTH and I will be attending the Marshall Hamfest and TMRA Hamfests in March. Marshall Hamfest will be held on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and TMRA will be the next day. They are usually both pretty nice and well attended.

Don't forget to check out the website at [www.w8tqe.com](http://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 by sharing he keeps up the website. Also, don't forget our newsletter editor, Ted K8AQM. He also needs our support.

Please thank Mark NU8Z and Dave K8AA for this month's newsletter. They worked together and got out the paper this month for Ted K8AQM. Ted and Judy WD8LCH are on vacation in the Bahamas. It must be nice to be off playing in the sun.

See you at the meeting. 73s,

Ginny W8TTX

## Cashews, QSOs and K3Y/8



Another evening of K3Y/8 operating took place in the new K8AQM shack with Ken K8KIC, Dick K8GX and myself. Every week the shack gets closer to the “desired” look and now the main stations are all in place. Operating two stations; K8KIC and K8GX worked 40m and 80m while

K8AQM worked 20m and 160m. It was a two hour operation in the monthly straight key Sprint (oxymoron?).

K8GX logged and got a chance to explore the Sprint Logger from K2RFP while K8KIC banged out the QSOs. Ken loves cashews and that’s how the “trap” was set to get him to operate. But what Ken wasn’t counting on was to be so busy with stations calling him that he had no time to dive into the bowl of cashews at his operating position until the two hours of the event were up! You never heard such grumbling and complaining, “ my arm... my stomach” poor Ken! Ah, but after the event there were tasty cash-

ews to be had and perhaps the anticipation made them taste all that much better!

It was a great time and a fitting ending to the month long operating event of the K3Y Straight Key Club anniversary. Heck, I even have some cashews left over for myself!

73,

Ted K8AQM

## Working the ISS...Finally!



Maggie W8MAG and XYL of Dave KB8TBQ has been trying to work the International Space Station and has finally “got ‘em” in the log. Using only 25 watts and a home brew circular antenna, this past month Maggie was able to contact the ISS this past month. It’s only about 200 miles “up” but the pileups have been tremendous and Maggie got through to the crew for a QSO.

Along with skill and dedication I’m sure the “female” voice helped as the crew is along and whirling around in space. Well done Maggie and we’d love to see the QSL from there!

## A New TVI Danger

Bill Prats K6ACJ, discovered that digital TV converter boxes may present a new source of television interference for hams. Many of the new DTV converters might easily overload with a strong ham transmission on VHF or UHF near the box or the over-the-air antenna causing the TV screen to either freeze or go black....yikes!

(editor)

## ***AARC Club Gossip! .....***

### ***Did you know that...***

...we need to learn more about "Lenawee County Emergency Communications"?  
 ...Technician classes will be March 21 and 28?  
 ...K8TLT has joined the "snow birds" for a month?  
 ...K8KIC has been working 160m with his 80m dipole?  
 ...Pete KD8IJC has professional emergency manager designation with the state of Michigan Em/Hsd?  
 ...it's official, KD8IQO is now W8IQO? Way to go Ron!  
 ...W8TTH has a new hat? His old one caught fire while he was working!  
 ...K8KIC and K8HCL "whipped" everyone in euchre?  
 ...W8IQO fixed K8KIC's 80m dipole? Ron had to climb up on a snow covered roof!  
 ...KR8U is working hard to learn the code by the end of March?  
 ...K8AQM/KP2 will be active with his straight key? Listen on 40/30/20m for him.  
 ...With reference to the above "if his wife allows him!!!!"  
 ...W8IQO is restoring a pair of Drake Twins? The TX4-B and R4-B Drakes are great old gear.  
 ...K8AA is a bit leery when K8KIC offers him cashews these days?  
 ...W8TTH has join the working class. It's rumored that they will even pay him?  
 ...K8UV recently had a 4 dog night in his shack?  
 ... Les N8KVY checks into the 75 meters (3973) breakfast club net every morning at 4:00am ???  
 ...It's also rumored that Ron KD8IQO (new W8IQO) also checks in at times? These guys are Early Birds  
 ... Ron W8IQO has restored an old Shure 55S microphone. (Like Elvis used)

## **AARC Club Minutes**

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club board met at the Civil Air Patrol building on January 26,, 2009. The following persons were present. Ginny W8TTX Marge KB8TMM, Mark NU8Z, Larry K8LNR, Bill KA8ARK Neil KC8DAR Bob K2IBM, Norm W8TTH. President Ginny W8TTX called the meeting to order at 0700. pm. We discussed the Emergency Response plan which is to be held Tuesday March 10 from 8:30 AM to 330.PM. The meeting is to be free Classes for prospective Hams will be held March 21 & 28. The meeting adjourned at 730 pm.

he Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the Civil Air Patrol building on January 26 2009. Roll call was by call sign. The meeting was called to order by president Ginny W8TTX at 730 pm. with 21 persons present. The Treasurers report was presented by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$4,515.96. The report was accepted upon a motion by Norm W8TTH second by Harold WA8QPS. The December minutes were accepted as printed in the Tickler, by Harold WA8QPS second by Norm. W8TTH. The motion passed. .There was no old business. Under new business Ted K8AQM notified us that he will be gone for some time in February and needs a volunteer to do the Tickler. Dave and Mark volunteered to do the Tickler.. The Emergency response plan meeting which is to to be held on March 10, at Seina Heights will be run by the health department. Classes for persons interested in becoming Hams will be held on March 21 & 28. There was lengthy discussion on emergency communications. Harold WA8QPS motioned to adjourn at 8:37 pm. Bill KA8ARK Secretary..



## CQWW 160cw at N8CC

Undoubtedly one of the best 160m stations, N8CC again hosted an operation in this year's CQWW 160m CW contest with Kaz K8KS doing the organization of operators and using Kaz's call.K8KS. Why doesn't Jeff use N8CC, because then he would have to answer all the QSLs that will come! The list of operators this year included Jeff N8CC, Kaz K8KS, Paul NF8J, Tim KK9T, Steve

K8QKY and Dennis KD8HTF. This year's operation was more casual than usual. The crew had a great time using Jeff's full size vertical with 130 radials and the six beverages to collect 1299 QSOs, 59 states and provinces and 71 countries. Wow, 71 countries on 160m in a weekend and they call that a casual operation?

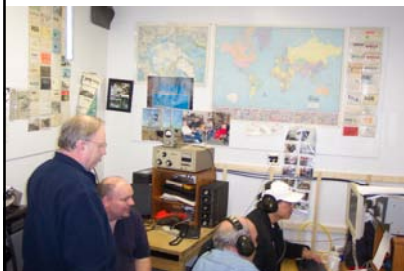
Running down the pictures from top to bottom are KK9T and NF8J running and working the pileups in the first picture. That's K8QKY on the left with KK9T, NF8J and K8KS running in the second picture. Dennis KD8HTF listens to Kaz running in the next photo and of course K8KS working "solo" in the bottom picture. Jeff N8CC doesn't get into many pictures since he's photographing everyone and then running around solving any station problems that arise during the contest.

The thing about a 160m contest is that 99% of your operation takes place from 4:00 PM until 8:00 AM. That means that your normal sleep patterns are "toast" and you have to adapt and sleep when and where you can. The two pictures below are very typical events of 160m contesting ... sleep "where and when you can". Kaz and Steve catching 40 winks between operating and the others are operating.

It's always a great time operating at Jeff's and you leave wondering what the next contest will be and how you're going to explain to the wife why you'll be gone for another weekend! Some how you'll find a way because it's just too much fun to miss! For me, it'll be planning the MiQP in April for another big K8XXX effort.

73,

K8AQM



## Neat Ham Radio related stuff on the Web

By NU8Z

There is a tremendous amount of Ham Radio knowledge to be harvested from a number of different sources. With Ham Radio, like any other endeavor you will be far more successful if you know the what's, where's, why's and how's as it relates to the hobby in general, especially regarding the set up and operation of your station. One source of info is the other hams in the club, or those that you might run into on the air. There is another source of info that is also very useful, that my friend is called the internet.

I have included some great links and short explanation for some stuff that is not only a necessity, but very useful, educational or just plain cool. Just to scratch the surface, see below:

- I would like to tell you about a computer utility called the “Ham Tool Bar”. It is a great “one stop shopping” spot for lots of radio stuff. It can be customized. <http://www.haminfobar.co.uk/>
  - Best General Ham Radio and DX reference Guide “AC6V” see: <http://www.ac6v.com/>
  - Another Good Reference link “The DX Zone Links” <http://www.dxzone.com/>
  - Internet Ham Atlas by SP6NVK <http://www.hamatlas.eu/detail.php?id=186>
  - W4RNL Antenna Website. (to register and sign in: <http://www.cebik.com/>)
  - Coax Cable and Line loss calculator: <http://www.ocarc.ca/coax.htm>
  - Reception reporting, DX clusters and Sked pages
    - Dx Summit (on line web based packet cluster) <http://www.dxsummit.fi/DxSpots.aspx>
    - Or try <http://ng3k.com/Misc/cluster.html> for all telnet clusters
    - Automatic PSK Reporting at <http://psk.gladstonefamily.net/pskmap.html>
    - Digital Voice, Digital modes, SKCC, Fists, LoTW, 30 Meters scheduling, chatting and reporting pages at <http://www.obriensweb.com/sked/>
    - DX “skimmer” reports (Reverse Beacons) at <http://skimmer.dxwatch.com/>
  - Rig Pix Database: Did you ever wonder what that old radio you had as a kid looked like? This will be great for the retro-hams in the club to reminisce. <http://www.rigpix.com/index.shtml>
  - Access to on line SDR Radios: Take a virtual radio trip to Europe! Tune the Bands from Europe go to. Send a test. See if you hear yourself? <http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/>
  - Information about DXpeditions and contests operations at <http://ng3k.com/index.html>
  - IK3QAR QSL Info and DX information Site: <http://www.ik3qar.it/>
  - Great Propagation Website at: <http://www.solarcycle24.com/>
  - You must have logging software !! Best Free ham Logging software: see “DX Labs Suites” <http://www.dxlabsuite.com/> and/or “Ham Radio Deluxe” <http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/>  
Both very versatile and powerful applications.
  - Software Downloads: <http://www.download.com/windows/> and <http://www.filehippo.com/>
  - The 70 Coolest Free Software applications in existence! <http://www.seopher.com/articles/>
  - All you wanted to know about CW at: <http://www.morsecode.nl/index2.html>
  - See [http://f1ult.free.fr/DIGIMODES/MULTIPSK/digimodesF6CTE\\_en.htm](http://f1ult.free.fr/DIGIMODES/MULTIPSK/digimodesF6CTE_en.htm) for description of all digital modes. Complete list of digital Software at <http://www.rv3apm.com/> also see AA5AU’s RTTY Page at <http://www.aa5au.com/rtty.html>
  - Hey what about Digital Voice! Check this out <http://www.melwhitten.com/> I have done it!
  - Let’s not forget the Satellites: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php> Also check out the great website called “The Heavens Above” It’s free but requires a login and your Lat/long info. Check it out at <http://www.heavens-above.com/>
  - Get Smart! Check out the Virtual Institute of Applied Science and get an on line tutorial lesson in the science topic of your choice <http://www.vias.org/electronics.html> This will send you to electronics, but there are other topics. Here is another tutorial page that may be of interest <http://www.radio-electronics.com/info/electronics-tutorials.php> Here is one for beginners it is a 101 level series of tutorials. <http://www.101science.com/> Good Stuff!!
  - Homebuilders check out <http://www.soldersmoke.com/> it is a series video tutorials on home brewing.
- Well That’s all for now. Have fun surfing! Mark NU8Z**

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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

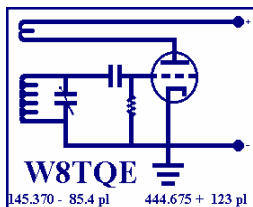
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan  
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

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

September 14, 2008  
Hamfest Chair Ray, W8RAY Marge, KB8TMM

### AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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



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**First Class**