

# The Tickler

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

Burrrrrrrr!!! Hopefully it won't stay so cold all winter. We already have enough snow as well. I hope you are all doing well this winter so far. I am afraid it will seem twice as long this year. Hope not.

We won't be having a post Christmas Potluck this year at the club on our meeting night, since it will be too close after Christmas this year. We will still all be suffering from all the food we ate on Christmas day. We will just have to enjoy ourselves and cherish the time we all have together. Blah Blah Blah. I love you all, but I don't want to get carried away. I hope you all have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This year has gone by so fast. It seems like it was just spring a couple of months ago. The older I get the faster the days seem to go by me. I can remember when I was a kid time seemed to drag on except when I was doing something I wanted to do and then it flew. Now it all goes by equally as fast no matter what I am doing. Norm W8TTH and my grandchildren are all growing so fast. The oldest ones are already three and it seems they were just born a year ago. You've got to love little children. They are happy doing and seeing the simplest things. They can entertain themselves for hours with very little effort. They are so innocent. We could learn something from them, if we weren't so old. The old saying goes, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks". That seems very true to me as I get older.

Norm W8TTH and I did not attend any hamfests this month. There is one in Hazel Park in January. I don't know if we are going to attend that one or not.

Norm and I hope you all have a great Christmas again this year and get to spend time with your families. Also, we will wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR as we may not see if you don't make it to the meeting on December 27<sup>th</sup>. If you get time off from your work, enjoy yourselves. Life is too short not to. Besides you can always procrastinate and do it next year.

Don't forget to check out the website at [www.w8tqe.com](http://www.w8tqe.com) and give any information or pictures to Bob K2IBM that you would like to post on the site. He is a great web master and we all should appreciate the way he keeps up the website. Also, this newsletter would not be possible without our editor, Ted K8AQM. He also needs support from you by sending him articles and pictures. Without these two fellows, information about our club and upcoming events would not be readily available to all of us. Thank them both the next time you see or hear them.

73,  
Ginny W8TTX

## **December Program**

**This month's program will be a Powerpoint presentation by KG8CO Brian on his recent trip to Romania. Length will be about 45 minutes.**

## CQWW CW @ N8CC's

Each of the past many years you've heard about the gathering at N8CC's for the CQWW CW contest. This year we gathered again, but with several different people and operations. This year N8AMM came up and was introduced to "big time" contesting. Don was impressed with Jeff's station (who wouldn't be with the 199 foot tower as the centerpiece!) and spent some time listening on the stacked 40m antennas. Jeff is a great teacher and Don a very inquisitive student. Don spent several hours with Jeff learning the "ins and outs" of propagation programs used by Jeff.

NU8Z operated the 80m station which is a "five square" and Jeff's excellent beverage antennas for receiving. By our count, Mark may have set a new W8 record with his score on 80m. Mark worked over 100 counties!

Stan AC8W (third picture down) was the 40m operator and no doubt again won the W8 40m single op award in this contest. Stan has placed first in this category for the past five years! It's nice to have a 40m stack with the top antenna at 200 feet and the lower at about 120 feet!

Sadly we lost our 20m operator, K8DD. Hank became a "silent key" two weeks before the contest. To say he is missed doesn't even come close to our loss. In addition to an extremely fine operator Hank was often our source of comic relief! No one could fill Hank's shoes.

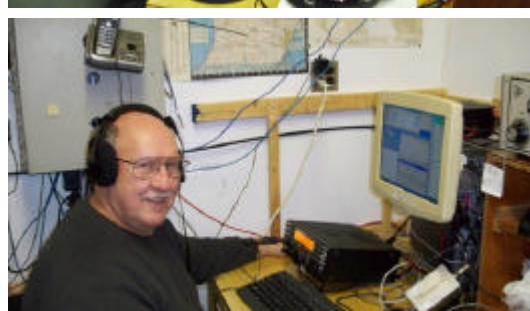
Dennis KT8X operated 160m (fourth picture down). Jeff has a full size 1/4 wave tower vertical with 1/4 radials (137) spread around the tower base and the beverages are also used on 160m for receiving. KT8X will most likely win the 160m single operator for W8.

I operated 15m with good friend Paul NF8J and although we made over 500 QSOs on 15m, we can't submit a score. Because there were two of us operating we can't claim "single-op" and there is no single band multi-op category. Even so, it was great fun. I got to use a K3 and even got lots of sleep! Paul is a good op and together we worked over 120 countries.

There was plenty of food as usual; chili, chips, cookies and of course our Saturday night fish fry prepared by N8UU, Russ. Russ brings a load of blue gills and they are delicious dipped in batter and right out of the "Fry Daddy"!

Next year we'll rally again; bet Don will be there and one of the main ops! Of course he's looking forward to the fish fry next year since he couldn't stay for this one!

73, K8AQM



## AARC Club Gossip! .....

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

...N8AMM has entered the "Big Time" (CQWW CW DX Contest) of cw contesting?  
 ...KG8CO has been installing "beverage" antennas for 160m?  
 ...K8UV has a 100 watt all-mode 2m radio now?  
 ...N8FLC's estate radios brought the club an additional \$800.00?  
 ...NU8Z has most likely set a new W8 record for 80m Assisted in the 2010 CQWW CW DX Contest?  
 ...N8AMM learned about propagation programs from N8CC?  
 ...WE8Z, K8GX, NU8Z, W8TTH and W8LNR all got "pacifier" cookies at the last meeting?  
 ...KG8CO is putting together his Romanian trip program for December's meeting?  
 ...K8KIC and N8AMM will operate K3Y/8 during January.  
 ...K8YCA Jerry, bought the club's SB-100?  
 ...N8AMM worked all states on 160m in less than seven hours?  
 ...dumb K8AQM wired his rotor to the same bad cable he discovered before...scheez!  
 ...WE8Z and K8NP showed at the last gab meeting "frozen"? Those "snowbirds" can't take the cold!  
 ...there is a K3 for sale? Check with Jan K1ND via K8KIC.  
 ...N8AMM has a new 80m dipole and is working DX on 80?  
 ...N8AMM also has a new 1/4 wave sloper for 160m? Looks like 160m DX is in his future!  
 ...K8TI has installed a 160m dipole? He loads it on all bands!  
 ...W8TTH has a business AND works full time for someone else?  
 ...K8UV has moved and limited now to Ham Sticks and 2m? Ugh!  
 ...If you own the old Kenwood HS-5 mono headphones they are actually stereo and easy to convert?  
 ...K8AQM has his basement shack going again? Alinco DX-70, Viking Valiant/Drake 2-B  
 ...N8AMM will be deep frying a turkey for the K3Y/8 gathering?  
 ...K8KIC has begun his "euchre withdrawals" ?  
 ...the word is "amplifiers" may be in W8TQE's future?

## AARC Club Minutes

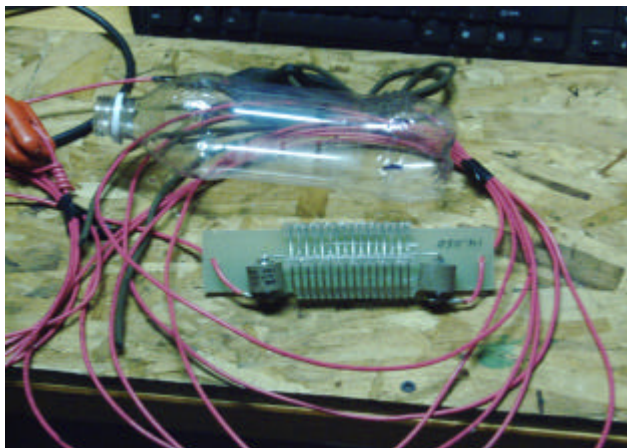
The Adrian Amateur Radio board met at the CAP building at the Lenawee County Airport on November 29, 2010. The following persons were present, Ginny W8TTX, Larry W8LNR, Norm W8TTH, Dick K8GX, Mark NU8Z, Bob K2IBM, Caleb KK1G, Neil KC8DAR, and Bill KA8ARK. Received a thank you letter from Michigan CAP Commander. Hot Dog dinner will be held at the February meeting Adjourned 7:26 pm.

The Adrian amateur Radio Club met at the CAP building on November 29 2010. The meeting was called to order at 7:43 PM with 25 persons present. Minutes passed as read, motioned approved Bob K2IBM, second Norm W8TTH. Passed. Treasurers report by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$10,142.47. Motion to accept report by Rich K8UV, second Jack KC8A. Motion passed. Hot dogs for February meeting. Hamfest has come and gone. New vice president Caleb KK1G. Same board certified election report.

Submitted by Bill KA8ARK



## Pop Bottle Traps



With all the special event operations in the Museum Ships Event I find myself making antennas just for them. I even make two 40m antennas and two 20m antennas; one set for SSB and lately one set for CW. I ran across a set of traps that would allow a full size 20m dipole and a short (57 feet total) a 40m antenna.. The 40m portion of the band could be adjusted to any 40 KHz section. Wow, cool, I could have a 40-20 dipole with these traps. The only trouble was the traps had no covering and were exposed to the weather, ie, rain! The last time I used an antenna with traps and no covers was on the V63 trip with KG8CO. We had an N8CC 30, 17 and 12m vertical that worked great...until it rained and

the traps shorted out! So, what to do for this little gem?

The solution as you can see was to grab a couple Vernor's bottles from our "returns" and slice them up for trap covers. Actually it was an easy fit and required only "slicing" the bottoms 3/4 of the way around and making sure the "top" would be hanging down when used as an inverted V. It was necessary to cut a slit to the center of the bottom for the wire to be in the correct position. After inserting the trap (a nearly perfect fit), I "sealed" the 3/4 slip with silicone sealer and let it dry. When dry I covered the sealed slit area with Scotch 33 tape and found I had to great trap covers that would keep the rain out in these portable operations and with the top end relatively open, moisture would not form inside the trap! I figure I have about \$0.12 invested in each cover, I lost a dime in the deposit of the two Vernors bottles.

I recently found two more coils and plan to make a "stealth" portable trap dipole, I have two "green" 7-Up bottoms for that one!



## Ham Trivia de K8UV

**1942** During WW-II, Rommel's Afrika Corps used 27-29 MHz for short range tank communications. Confused SWL'ers (I believe in Virginia and Georgia) finally figured out what they were listening to. The US Gov't set up listening stations to relay the info back to Patton. Short range in a pig's eye!

**1942** [Navajo Code Talkers](#) took part in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. Their unique code language totally confounded the Japanese Radio Operators

## N8AMM in the ARRL 160 Contest

160m called “top band” or “the gentlemen’s band” to some, is “unknown territory” to many amateurs. Some say the band is only good for local work, some say it takes too much real estate to put up a 160m antenna; both are incorrect. N8AMM came over to the K8AQM shack where the 160m antenna is only 130 feet long (about the same as my 80m dipole) and there is no special listening antenna. Every December the ARRL sponsors its 160m cw contest. The band comes alive with signals! Don had never been in a 160m contest but had “worked a few” on top band last year when he had an inverted L up in his yard. It



was decided this would not be an all-out effort, rather just a search and pounce effort to work a few states. I think Don was “impressed” when he heard all the stations on 160m and watched the band map from N1MM fill the screen with “100s” of stations. I logged while Don “pushed buttons” or tapped out his call and the standard “599 MI”. The stations began to fill the log and soon we were over 30 states worked on 160m! And then we heard the “DX” stations; Europe and the Caribbean and soon they too were in the log!

I quit about 10:00 PM and headed for the house with 10 countries and 43 states in the log. Don was going to work “a few more” before he would head for home. This was not going to be a full blown

all-nighter. The next morning I wandered out to the shack and was surprised to find there were 187 Qs in the log and 48 states and that included a KL7 (it took me three years on 160m to work Alaska)! Wow, I guess he did work “a few more”. Don needed two more states to have a “Worked All States” on 160m. The two remaining states needed were Hawaii and Wyoming. Wyoming was found that morning and was quickly in the log. It was about 7:00 AM and past the time to find KH6 so the station sat quietly and waited for the very early next morning to find Hawaii. That night a few more countries were added to the total. I set my alarm for 5:00 AM to look for Hawaii the next morning. I thought that was the least I could do to help Don out. I staggered out to the shack at 5:15 and by 5:21 KH6 was in the log, I quickly staggered back to bed!

Don did a great job, WAS on 160m in seven hours of operating time! Not bad at all! The KW helped and the inverted L played well but it was Don’s operating that got the job done. I understand Don now has a 1/4 wave sloper up at home and is working DX and all sorts of stations; welcome to 160m!





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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 28.325 +/-QRM

### Local Area Repeaters

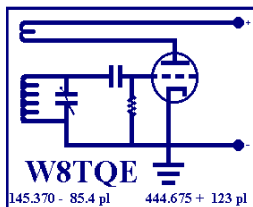
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan  
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

### Adrian ARC 37th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September 19, 2010  
Hamfest Chair  
Brian KG8CO cqkg8co@yahoo.com

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