

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hope everyone is having a great summer. The weather is starting to change already. You can see the leaves changing color already. We may have an early winter, if this keeps up.

As all of you should know our Adrian Amateur Radio Club Hamfest was held this month. We had a pretty good crowd of people attend this year and the weather held out for us and we didn't get any of the scattered showers that were predicted. However I am sure it kept some people from showing up. It ended up being a beautiful day. Thanks to all of you that helped out this year with the hamfest. I would like to especially thank Brian KG8CO for all the great email spam and preparing he did for the show. Don't forget we do this every year and we certainly can use any help you are willing to give.

The Findlay hamfest was also this month and it turned out to be a good show for us. Norm and I camped out on our hamfest spaces as we have for the past several years. We had a good time and did see a few people from our club there, but only a few. The weather was great and fun was had by all.

Norm W8TTH and I will be attending the Holland Hamfest this year. We will not be able to attend the one in Kalamazoo due to other commitments. They are going to be held back to back this year on Saturday, October 16th and Sunday, October 17th if you would like to attend. They are both usually fairly well attended shows and the folks are all real friendly just like the folks we have in our club.

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 by sharing things through the website. Also, don't forget our newsletter editor, Ted K8AQM. He also needs our support by giving him articles and pictures. They both do a great job for all of us.

The meeting this month will be September 27th, I hope to see you all there.

2010 SET Saturday OCT 2, 2010 by K8YZA

Please monitor 145.37 for the annual Simulated Emergency Test. The rules for points are similar to past - emergency power gets more points, which includes mobiles & handhelds. We will be using both repeaters & simplex. We need as many check-ins as possible and some stations to make contacts to surrounding counties.

The exercise will probably consist of a weather related condition within Lenawee county.

For those who would like to handle formal written message, refer to the ARRL message form. If you want to hear how this is handled, listen to Michigan Traffic Net which meets daily on or near 3.952 MHz.

Ice Cream Social 2010



Another fine ice cream social is in the books for Adrian ARC. This year the weather was “just right”, not too hot, not too cold. The ice cream was great and even though it wasn’t the KC8DAR/W8TTH “home-brew” version, no one could complain!



Lots of “regulars” were there and some seldom seen faces joined the crowd too. KG8CO managed to find his way from Clinton and N8CC showed with his long “north-of-Battle Creek” drive. KR8W and K8UV were there representing Manchester and N8AMM from the south in Morenci all came.

It was especially nice to welcome all the XYLs and to add a “touch” of “civility” to the gathering. Pam Faust was presents and was especially welcomed. The “extra” cookies and snacks brought were a very pleasant addition to the choices of topping for the chocolate and vanilla ice creams.



This year we were all treated to a very nice surprise. Monica Percy, K8NP’s XYL, informed us earlier that this day would be Neil’s birthday and could she bring a cake over and surprise him at the “social” with the cake. Ha, since when do we EVER decline an opportunity to pull something over on one of the gang! Monica brought over a beautiful cake and in-front-of the entire club she presented it to him. We, a “rough bunch,” and inconsideration to the “ladies” gave Neil a “three cheers” rather than have the ladies ears suffer a bunch of “croaky” old guys singing happy birthday. So in addition to the great ice cream and cookies we all had “Neil’s cake and ate it too!” About the only thing that was missing was an “accordion” solo from K8KIC to make the ice cream social complete this year.



We did miss NU8Z’s great grilled pineapple and rum sauce as well as Mark’s humorous comments. K2IBM was missed also but Bob has promised “this will never happen again!” There is always room for more folks to attend and you miss a great time if you don’t.

The ice cream social has been an August tradition for many years in our club. Hopefully the tradition will carry on and find itself at a new QTH next year. Judy and I have enjoyed hosting the event and want to thank everyone for attending the past years.



We have a lot of great places in our club for this event and I’m sure someone will step forward to offer their hospitality.

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...KG8CO only spent \$100 at Findlay? A record low for Brian!
 ...N8KBY, WE8Z, K8KIC, K8TI, N8QEW, KG8CO, K8AQM, W8TTH, W8TTX were all at the Findlay hamfest?
 ...KC8DAR's dog Ruby, bumped into the south end of a north bound skunk? Ugh!
 ...KG8CO got his TH-11 fixed? It was a "bad" brand new balun!
 ...W8TTH had some "special" bolts made, 2 inch diameter and 6 feet long?!
 ...K2IBM says he'll not miss another ice cream social... ever!
 ...Barb N8QEW's wife makes the best chocolate chip cookies?
 ...WE8Z and K8KIC have new Alpha Delta antenna switches?
 ...WE8Z has a new Ameritron AL-811 amp? The "Boyer" will be loud now!
 ...K8NP turned 70 the day of the ice cream social?
 ...N8CC has added a "skimmer" program to his contest station?
 ...KG8EF is playing "Commercial Crazies"?
 ...KA8SEW had a bout with food poisoning? Yuck!
 ...K8KS is in China?
 ...K8AQM spent only \$3.00 at Findlay? Also a record low!
 ...**K8JE Jim Weaver ARRL Great Lakes Division Director, will be our guest speaker at the meeting?**
 ...K8KIC is still playing euchre with the guys....and enjoying cashews earlier than normal?
 ...N8AMM is scoring big in the SKCC Weekend Sprints? Number 2 world wide!
 ...K8GX's wife makes the best salsa?
 ...NU8Z and KG8CO are working on Fitzgerald certificates?

AARC Club Minutes

There are no minutes this month because everyone was eating ice cream! Here is some great trivia from K8UV, thanks Rich!

Radio Shack probably gets its name from maritime lore dating back to the invention of the radio at the turn of the century. At the time, wireless equipment aboard ships was generally housed above the bridge in a wooden structure that was called the "radio shack".

1905 Horace G. Martin introduces the The Vibroplex semi-automatic telegraph key, commonly called a "bug". The Use of 500 kHz as the International Distress Frequency is common

Before 1912, call signs were just made up by the aspiring Amateur and it wasn't until the Radio Act of 1912 that the first licenses were issued.

It was not until October 1, 1928, that the W and K prefixes were assigned to Amateurs.

1917 - There were about 6,000 Amateurs. By 1917, code speed requirements were increased to 10 wpm. Amateur radio was shut down during WWI and the Navy even issued orders against receiving as well. Amateurs get back on the air in October - November, 1919

1923, November 27, the impossible happened. Leon Deloy (8AB), of Nice, France worked (on 110 m CW) USA stations: Fred H. Schnell (1MO, Connecticut) and John L. Reinartz (1QP/1XAL, after - W3RB). Four thousand miles - DX For Sure.

In 1924, Amateurs received new bands at 80, 40, 20, and 5 meters. Spark transmission was prohibited on the new bands. By 1926, Spark transmission was prohibited for use by Amateurs.

New Antennas and Tower Top for N8AMM

Don N8AMM has redesigned and improved his antenna system. With a forty foot Rohn 20 tower and a TH3jr and small TV rotor Don has worked the world on 20, 15 and 10 meters. The problem has been the TV rotor couldn't hold the antenna during heavy winds and Don was continually running outside to see where his antenna was pointing! In addition to this Don's Ameritron AL-811H could easily "cook" the traps on the TH3jr; not a good situation!

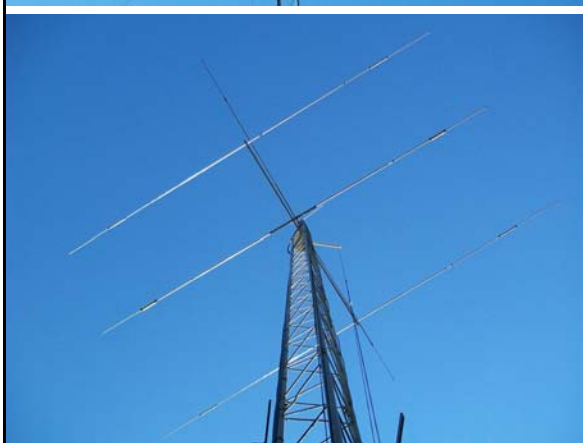
Brian KG8CO came across a Mosely TA33jr at a very good price but when Don and Brian picked the antenna up they saw the antenna had been upgraded with a driven element that would allow a kw to be used with the antenna! Brian quickly offered to trade Don the TA33jr upgraded for the TH3jr...done deal. N8AMM had a wire ZL antenna for 17m but nothing for 12m. An opportunity came up for a trap dipole for 17 and 12m that could rotate above his new TA33jr and Don quickly snatched it up. Also available through estate sale was a CDE (Hygain) TR-44 rotor which would easily handle Don's new system....also a done deal!

Wheeling and dealing with W8TTH Don secured a second rotor plate to mount a thrust bearing on when the "cone" section of the top Rohn section was removed. Thus began the installation of N8AMM's new system.

With help from KG8CO and K8AQM the project was begun; down came the old antenna, the top section and broken rotor. Don had prepared and checked the new antenna and rotor so the top section was cut and mounted with the thrust bearing, plate and rotor. A bit of engineering was required and some additional muscle was used to hoist the top section and mast up. About six hours were required to complete the project and poor Don was on the tower entire time!

The tower/antennas/rotor all looked great...but, the new antenna swr was terrible! On the ground everything checked out great now the antenna was "unusable"! Bummer, what was wrong? Everything was checked and connections were fine. Needless to say, Don was very disappointed.

The problem was obvious, severe interaction between the yagi and the trap dipole. The solution was not quite as obvious, Don wanted all the bands, the spacing was good and all the connections solid. Fortunately experience has shown that rather than lining up the driven element on the yagi and the trap dipole, interaction would be severely reduced if they were perpendicular to each other. This could be done easily by rotating the mast in the rotor without taking anything down. When Don did this the interaction between the antennas was reduced and all is well now with the N8AMM antenna farm! A lesson well learned for future antennas at N8AMM.



Down, Up and Up!

Those of you who were at the ice cream social saw the new 40m two element yagi that was “soon” to go up. Well, “soon” has come and gone and the yagi is “up”. Thanks to the help of N8AMM, KG8CO and my friend Roger Young (plus the fact the xyl and dog were gone for the weekend), I can report the yagi is up and working quite well.

I don't have a lot of open space to work in and there are already too many antennas on the tower (according to some, but you can't have too many antennas!); in order to put the 40m up the lower TH-6 had to come down. With the xyl gone I did what I'm not suppose to do (so what else is new), I climbed the tower and with N8AMM's help the TH-6 was lowered and moved out of the way. That's my “slim” self caught on the tower by K8GX who “kindly” took a picture after scaring me thinking Judy had returned and me on the tower!



Check-out how big a 2 element 40m yagi is and those long elements. Here Roger, N8AMM and Brian ready the antenna to be trammed up to the 60 foot level. The boom is 24 feet and the elements are about 30 feet each side. Before any antenna goes up an explanation of “how”, “what” and “why” is given so we're all on the same page. Don is explaining to Brian and Roger how this is to be done.



Weaving the antenna around and through tree limbs at my QTH is no easy task but it was done and the antenna was hauled into place. While Don and Brian secured the clamps holding the antenna to the tower one person (Roger) was able to hold the antenna in place. Brian and Don secured the antenna and connected the feedline. An 80m dipole had to be removed and there is an entire story there but no room here for the printing. Let me just say N8AMM is a “genius” and without him I would have a 40m yagi with 66 feet of wire added on to give a resonant frequency of 6.475 MHz! Ugh!

Remember that TH-6 that was lowered? It had to go back up and the work continued after a much needed lunch and break. Again a tram was used to re-raise the antenna with Don and Brian again on the tower. No problems, all went well and the final work was completed.



Both antennas are securely mounted and working well. Thanks to the efforts of my friends the “big” tower is ready for the winter season. The knowledge to get these projects done can be passed on now through Brian and Don; they're tower experts and I thank them for their very generous help. The project began at 9:00 AM and we finished at 4:30 PM.



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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

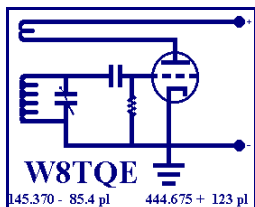
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 37th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September 19, 2010
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First Class