

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

It has been a little frosty the past couple of mornings when I get out of work, but with the sun shining on all the white sparkles it sure makes for beautiful scenery for the drive home. Snow is soon to follow, but hopefully Mother Nature will be a little kind to us this year. I hope you are stay healthy this year.

Norm W8TTH and I went to the Fort Wayne Hamfest once again this year and once again enjoyed seeing all our friends and made quite a few sales. I even got to meet a couple of the folks that I speak with on 147.195 (Fulton County Amateur Radio Club's Frequency) on my daily commute back and forth to work.

Norm W8TTH was able to get out and hunt on the first day of Gun Deer Hunting Season as opening day fell the day after Fort Wayne this year.

This year's election was basically an appointment for all of the officers and the board members at one meeting. The nominations started and closed very quickly. I know we all heard the whistle blow as the train went by us. Therefore we have all of the same officers and board members as last year with the exception of Marjie KB8TMM who declined running for office this year. I will miss her greatly, but hope she knows that we are always willing to hear from her as we value her opinions and knowledge. Caleb Squires KK1G has been elected (appointed) to fill her position. If you don't know Caleb, you will find him very eager to get involved more with our hobby. I welcome him and know he will be a good asset for us all. Hopefully his young ideas will make us all more active in the club. We all could use some of his enthusiasm as we start another year together.

Sorry Neil KC8DAR. We will see you at the board meetings again this year. You can thank all your fellow club members. It is all their fault and Caleb's, since he chose to only take the Vice President's position. I hope you all have a great Thanksgiving Holiday with your families. Eat and enjoy yourselves. Life is too short not to.

Don't forget our newsletter editor, Ted K8AQM, and our webmaster, Bob K2IBM. They both need articles and pictures to put in our Tickler and on our website. Please check out the website at www.w8tqe.com. They both do a great job for all of us.

The meeting this month will be November 29th, I hope to see you all there.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

This month's program will be "Traveling in Japan with AC8W, KG8CO and K8AQM"
A travelogue

“Antenna Here is a Patio Vertical”

K8LAR Blair West has come up with a great way of installing a vertical in a restricted neighborhood. Shown in the photos is Blair’s (aka “Bud”) Hustler 4-BTV vertical. Living in the Saline area can present some interesting problems with antenna restrictions and establishing a good antenna system. But “where there is a will, there is away” and the clever ham will find a way to get a signal on the air.

Bud figured he could get away with the Hustler vertical by mounting it below his deck and cutting a small circular hole through the deck for the remaining portion of the vertical. Of course the vertical requires radials and a coax feed but the attachments at the base of the vertical “below deck” presents no real problem. Bud ran the coax and radials around the underside of the deck and on top of the stones.

Above the deck there are several options for this stealth installation:

1. leave the antenna as it is pictured.
2. put flower pots around the base and connect string to the top hat spreaders from the pots and grow morning glory flowers and vines so the entire structure will look like a “flower tree” in mid summer!
3. attach fiber glass arms at the top hat spreader and hang small light bird feeders (humming bird?) to the fiber glass rods.

The Hustler 4-BTV can also be made into a 5 BTV. All that is needed for 80m is to add the screw-on resonator to the top of the 4 BTV’s screw cap and you’re on 80m! Blair hasn’t decided to do this yet but it may be in his future plans.

So how exactly does the antenna work in this configuration what with the deck surrounding it? According to Blair the antenna functions exactly as the manual says. All SWR readings are exactly as they’re suppose to be but the proof is in the pudding and until we can get Blair to join us on 10m we’ll not know for sure.

Many years ago I had a Hustler 4-BTV mounted on a 30 foot tower with radials elevated. I not only added the 80m cw resonator but also the 75m SSB resonator thanks to a little bending mounting bracket made by the “metal wizard” W8TTH. The antenna worked very well and was the only 80m DX antenna I had at the time. I was able to work several DXpeditions during that time on 40m and 80m.

Perhaps the most unusual mounting of a Hustler 4-BTV was at KC8A’s QTH. Jack has a large pond in the back yard and WB8ZFB(sk) and I mounted the antenna to a pipe at pond level out in the middle of the pond with a few bare copper wires secured to cement blocks connecting the “ground radial system” to the water on the pond. Jack ran a kw into this antenna which provided many DX contacts through the years.

The Hustler 4-BTV is a very robust antenna and made very well. Normal coverage is 40m-10m with the availability to add 75 and/or 80m. It is rated to handle full legal output.



AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...KB8ECG "painted" his dipole brown, green and black (wire and coax!) to hide it in the woods???
 ...Fitzgerald KG8EF certificates are all mailed out?
 ...KG8CO was on from "Romania" as YO/KG8CO?
 ...K8KIC, K8NP and K8HCL are still playing euchre...but had to move inside?
 ...NU8Z, K8AA, WE8Z, K8NP, K8KIC, N8AMM, N8CC and K8AQM all worked YO/KG8CO?
 ...K8AQM can't find the coax run to his quad no the switch but did find the rotor cable?
 ...W8TTH bought a Dentron Super Tuner to replace the one he can't find?
 ...N8KR has a new 40 foot tower?
 ...This month will be the "Japan Trip" travelogue?
 ...NU8Z is making a major effort in CQ WW CW as 80m single op?
 ...W8LNR's TH-6DX was "free wheeling" and twisted the pl-259 right off the coax?
 ...K8KIC has a new "touch paddle" for cw, no contacts, works on skin capacitance.
 ...K8UV managed to check-in on the 10m cw net with his 200+ foot random wire.
 ...KG8EF received two certificates this month?
 ...KG8CO's new 160m antenna works "sweet"?
 ...the SFI got up to 96 this month? Could the bands be coming back?
 ...KG8CO is installing new beverage receiving antennas?
 ...K8TI has been showing up on the 10m net?
 ...WE8Z can't seem to figure out how to put his left-handed bug on the air?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur radio club board met at the CAP building at the Lenawee county airport on October 25, 2010. The meeting was called to order by Ginny W8TTX at 7:00PM. The following people were present, Ginny W8TTX, Larry W8LNR, Norm W8TTH Dick K8GX, Mark NU8Z, Bob K2IBM, Bill KA8ARK. We discussed Nomination of Officers tonight and nominate Board members at the November meeting. Ginny W8TTX has two tickets for Ft. Wayne Hamfest to raffled off tonight. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the CAP building at the Lenawee County Airport on October 25, 2010. The club was called to order at 7:30 PM with 25 persons present. The OCTOBER Minutes as published in the Tickler were approved upon a motion by Norm W8TTH second Dick K8GX. Motion Bob K2IBM, second by Jack KC8A. to accept the treasurer's report which showed a balance of \$10,048.97 was presented by Mark NU8Z. Motion passed. FT Wayne Hamfest is to be 13 & 14 of November. Ginny W8TTX raffled off two tickets to the membership for the Ft. Wayne tickets. Officers were nominated as follows: Mark NU8Z for Treasurer and Bill KA8ARK for Secretary as there were no other nominations for those positions Norm W8TTH motioned to close those nominations second by Dick K8GX motion passed. Nominations for president, Ginny W8TTX and vice president. Caleb KK1G. Motion to close nominations for president and vice president by Norm W8TTX second by Joe K8YZA motion passed. Board Nominations were for Norm W8TTH, Larry W8LNR, Dick K8GX, Motion to close nominations for board members was made by Jack KC8A second by NU8Z motion passed. Motion to adjourn by Norm W8TTH second by Joe K8YZA. Bill KA8ARK Secretary.

Key Restoration Wrap-up

I have been working on several restoration projects of bugs and keys. A couple of Lionel J-36 keys have been refurbished but never completed because of “missing paper labels”. For some reason the paper labels from 1940s just don’t seem to last...duh! The copy of the label is available on the internet and several people have printed it as a photo using heavier photo stock paper. I came up with a “vinyl label” made at Legacy Printing here in town. The vinyl is thick and glues easily to the base of the J-36 bug making a more permanent label. The photo on the left shows the “finally completed” J-36 bugs. The “extra” label is for N8CC’s J-36.

In the center and on the right are photos of a World War II British Army telegraph key belonging to K8AEM, a mentor and friend to those of us who operate at N8CC’s station. Walt got this key from a British ham friend and it was a mess. The key appeared to be chrome but was soiled and tarnished badly. Corky’s Buffing took the key and found that the chrome wore right off during buffing but underneath the chrome was not steel as we figured but brass! The key polished up beautifully and mounted easily to a piece of “Lenawee Walnut”. N8CC plans to return the key to Walt and hopes to hear it on the air soon. Not shown in the picture is a vinyl labels mounted on the wood base that has Walt’s call...*K8AEM*.



Year End Antenna Work

Who says you need warm weather for tower work? Cold is ok but wind is bad! The three “blue sky” pictures are of N8AMM working on W8LNR’s antennas. Larry’s antennas were “free spinning” and Larry lost the coax to his TH-6DX. Don began the first steps of repair removing the damaged coax but the wind has prevented the replacement of the balun as of yet.

The photos on the right are K8AQM on the tower, N8AMM and Roger Young doing the ground work as an A-4A is hoisted into place at the 40 foot level on old suicide tower.

The temps were in the very low 40s but what made the work hard was the wind. Oh yeah, K8AQM got his shoe stuck between the rotor and tower and had to take the shoe off (at 40 ft) to get his foot out...bummer!



Fixing a Quad “Ain’t” Easy!

Quads work great but....keeping them up is another whole story! My quad broke apart two years ago and is finally on the mend. Since I don't climb like I use to KG8CO offered to climb the 70 foot Rohn 20 tower and with the help of N8AMM and good friend Roger Young we began the repair.

All the elements were fine, what broke were two bolts that hold the spreader to the boom. To repair this the driven element had to be lowered and a new bracket attached. This is a five band quad and of course the most complicated element, the driven, was the one needing repair. Brian spent about three hours up on the tower just getting ready to lower the driven element. After lunch the element was down and Brian then began to make a small improvement on the reflector (another two hours on the tower). Meanwhile N8AMM, Roger and myself worked to replace the driven element bracket. We carefully removed the bracket and then tightened the spreaders. Five hours on the tower were enough for one day for Brian and the next day would be soon enough to haul the repaired driven element back up.

We wrestled the element back up but couldn't get it secured in place due to the tight fitting u-bolts on the boom. Battling another two hours finally saw success of getting the driven element back in place. The quad looks great and now should be secure and operational for several years/ice storms to come.

But there is another problem with the quad. I can't seem to find the coax from the quad in the new shack? Did I even install it, will it require a new run of coax? Where is the five conductor switch cable for the elements? I can't find that either! I did find the rotor cable so that leads me to believe the missing cables must be somewhere in that wall panel!

Despite all these issues I sure am thankful for the work Don, Brian and Roger did in getting me to this point of frustration! It's good to have friends, thanks guys.



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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

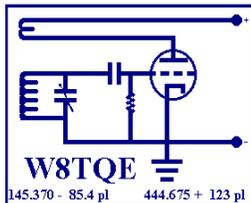
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 37th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

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

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First Class