

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone. It is finally started to warm up a little. Motorcycle season will be here soon and I have already seen bikes out on the roads, so please be aware they are out there. I can hardly wait to ride. There has been a lot of fog in the mornings lately and that can stop anytime.

We lost one of our very active amateur radio operators this month. Ray Willey W8RAY will be greatly missed by all. Ray was involved in a lot of other activities other than being an avid ham radio operator. Read page 3 for more details. Ray was blessed with a very loving family. Our condolences and best wishes go out to Marjie KB8TMM, our Vice President.

Don't forget there are two decent hamfests this month. Marshall Hamfest will be March 20th and the TMRA Hamfest will be on the 21st. They have both moved to different locations, so please check out their websites for directions and addresses for their shows. I will have to report on them next month as we needed to get the paper out a little earlier this month.

Technician classes will be next month. See page 5 for details and contact information.

I got some good news for myself, my daughter, Tonya KC8DAP and her family will be moving back up to Michigan from Florida. Therefore Norm W8TTH and I will get to spend some time with our 2 year old granddaughter before we miss out on her young life. It has been almost a year since we saw her last and I can hardly wait to see how much she has grown and changed. I am not so sure Norm is enthusiastic as I am about the move though, since they will be staying with us until they can find other housing.

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.

Don't forget the meeting on Monday, March 29th. See you there.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

March Program

This month's program will be presented by Mark NU8Z. The program will be "Whisper Radio" which is another new digital form of transmission (I think). Mark will have an excellent program featuring how whisper radio works and what you need to know and do to get started in this form of communication.

The program will follow the meeting and will most likely be 45~60 minutes.



Chinese Army Straight Key

This is the most recent key in the K8AQM collection. The key is a Chinese Army key and was purchased on Ebay. It's a very well built key, extremely sturdy and yet smooth action key. The base is a steel plate with a chrome shield over the plate. The parts are mounted on a heavy plastic block. Strangely the screws are not metric as you might expect but rather good old SAE sizes...strange. The key is not expensive and this one was purchased (new) for \$22.00 and I consider it a very good deal.

Skywarn Training 2010

Lenawee County Emergency Management, the National Weather Service Detroit/Pontiac Office, and Siena Heights University present:

Skywarn Training

Friday, April 9, 2010

7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

at Rueckert Auditorium in Dominican Hall

1247 E. Siena Heights Dr Adrian MI

Win Key By K1EL



One of the issues with contest logging programs has been the difference in cw the program sends and the cw speed of your external/internal rig keyer. The problem has been solved with a product by K1EL. K1EL is famous for his wonderful keyboard keyers (ask K8KIC about those), he has developed a sweet little keyer that connects to the computer via a USB port and connects to you radio through the regular key jack. The use of this keyer lets you control both the program sending speed of the cw and the paddle you use, thus the two keying units are synchronized.

You can buy the keyer as either a factory wired unit or as a kit. Brian KG8CO tried his hand at the kit. Brian said this was his first-ever kit and after about one and a half hours of labor the kit was finished. The direction for construction were well thought out and the assembly proceeded without a problem. Using a small tipped soldering pencil, some small wire clippers, Brian had the board assembled and ready for the power up check-out.

When you plug the keyer into your computer and power the computer up the keyer lets you know it's "ready" with "dit-dah-dit". Brian's worked well and controls his cw speed in his N1MM logging program and his paddle.

Brian says he's ready for his next kit project, a re-kit this summer of an old Heathkit DX-20 transmitter. He may even consider building his own K3! Way to Brian!

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...K8AQM has a Chinese straight key?
 ...KG8CO has a walk-in closet stashed with radio "goodies"? They say it's like Dayton's flea market!
 ...N8AMM completed his WAS? He finally got that Arkansas station, way to go Don!
 ...W8TTH has the most AMAZING cell phone? Ask him to show you its features!
 ...K8TI has been active again; on the 10m nets?
 ...KG8CO is thinking about either the K3 or Flex 3000 radio?
 ...K8KIC has his own TS-480 back from Kenwood?
 ...K8NP says learning to use a "bug" is WAY DOWN his "things to do" list?
 ...K8KIC had NO Sunday night check-ins one net night this past month?
 ...Antenna weather will soon be on us? Club antennas, personal antennas; get ready!
 ...KC8TQB is "elevating" his TA-33?
 ...KC8TQB's XYL is studying for her general? You're in trouble now Dave!
 ...Michigan QSO Party is soon upon us, April 17th?
 ...K8GX reassembled "two" J-36 bugs for K8AQM? Tnx Dick!
 ...K8KS gave a terrific program on his time during the Haiti disaster? Tnx Kaz!
 ...K8AQM and KG8CO are off Dxing from JD1, Ogasawara Island now?
 ...NU8Z has a great program planned for March..."whisper radio"?
 ...The 2m repeater has been quite active again?
 ...KG8CO has a new Win Key rig interface?
 ...W8LNR's new shack is almost complete? Pictures soon?
 ...K8UV is thinking of getting a K3?
 ...K8XXX will not be active in the MQP this year?
 ...K8KIC has two bugs for each of his stations! Wow!

Ray Willey W8RAY, SK...

Ray was born Sept. 2, 1931, in Elmore, Ohio, the son of Ralph and Iola (Strauch) Willey. Ray was a member of the Brooklyn Eagles, Brooklyn Moose, the NRA and was a past member of the Depot Town Engine Club of Ypsilanti, Southeast Michigan Antique Tractor & Engine Club, Adrian Amateur Radio Club and the Monroe County Radio Club. He was a private pilot. Ray was retired from DTE Energy.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Marjorie; his children, Ray (Lisa) Willey of Gibraltar, Christopher (Misty) Willey of Taylor and Marianne (Bob) Ricevuto of Milan; six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; and his brother, Leslie (Cathy) Willey of Elmore, Ohio. He was preceded in death by his parents and two daughters, Joan and Patricia.

AARC Club Minutes

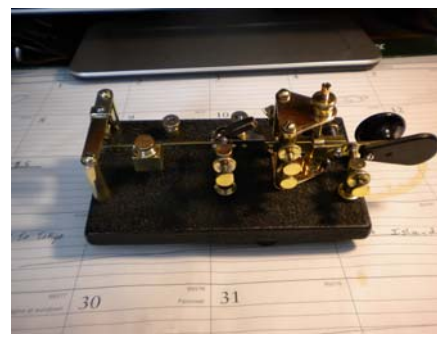
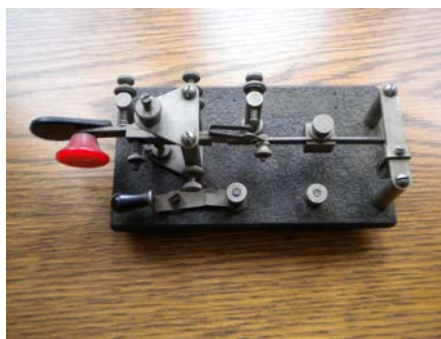
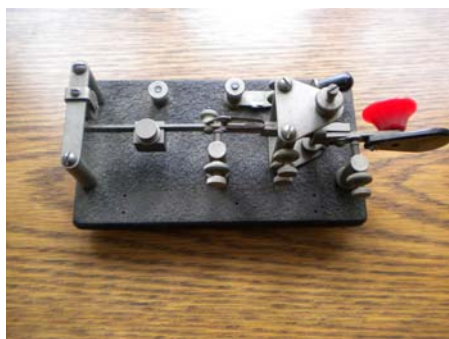
There was no formal meeting of the Adrian Amateur Radio Club board or club due to the very excellent program put on by Dr. Kaz about his two week tour of duty in Haiti.
 Secretary, Bill KA8ARK

Reviving A Couple Of J-36 Bugs

As you may know, K8KIC, K8AQM, K8UV, K8GX, KC8ITC, N8AMM and now K8TI have scheduled the last Thursday of the month as “Bug Night” on 10m (28050 KHz) at 8:00 PM. We all use our bugs and try to relearn/learn to send cw with them and have a few laughs. It’s a great time and we enjoy it very much.

There are many different models of “the bug” and my favorite is the old World War II J-36 model made by Vibroplex and Lionel (the train people). I like to get them all refurbished and restored to “better-than-new” condition. Since I have several stations within my shack I felt I needed more than one bug; one for every station of course just like K8KIC but then he has two for everyone of his stations! Anyway, I managed to secure two early 1940s J-36 Lionel bugs who desperately needed some TLC. After disassembling them I took them to “Corky’s Buffing and Polishing” out on Tomer Road. Corky does a great job of polishing and buffing metal. While the parts were being all polished I repainted the bases with satin black Rustoleum. When the polished parts were returned I contacted K8GX and asked Dick if he would reassemble them. Dick does a great job of this and as long as I don’t wax the contacts Dick has them together and working in no time! I bring them home and apply a coating of clear wax so the newly polished bugs so they stay polished longer. To the right and below are the two restored Lionel J-36 bugs. The lower bug came with that “yucky” red dah knob and I quickly replaced that!

But the projects although working properly, are not finished. Lionel used a heavy paper label riveted on each bug but through the years and use the labels have worn away. My goal now is to find a place that can make the 4.5 x .75 labels of plastic that I can attach to



each of the bugs. Below is a jpeg of the old Lionel label available from the internet and although the bugs will have the same serial number I think the labels will add the finishing touch to the restoration of the J-36. You can almost see the area where the label will go on the bug.

So does anyone know where I might get this label made either on plastic or vinyl that I can attach to a material and re-rivet to the J-36?

By the way, WE8Z now has a bug and Denny will hopefully join us when he returns from Florida. NU8Z and KG8CO have yet to be bitten by the “bug” but we’re hoping!



73,
K8AQM



Hallicrafters S-76 Receiver

Through the NN8H estate I acquired an old Hallicrafters S-76, 1950-55 vintage. Jim (NN8H) must have planned to put together a “vintage” station, he had this receiver and a Viking II. When I got the receiver it was a “dirty” disaster. It was covered on the inside with almost a solid 1/8 inch of dirt, the case had been painted “gray” rather than the original black. The radio “lit-up” but only WABJ could be heard. The knobs were all “nicotine stained” and the case had massive scratches on the top. Daryl, Jim’s son, said, “You can have this Ted”...oh boy, lucky me! Well, nothing like a fun project!



I proceeded to brush, wash and scrub over 50 years of dirt. I pulled all the tubes and checked them on my old tube checker (WA8UWQ’s). Finding the tubes good, the pins on each one were cleaned with De-Oxit and replaced. With everything cleaned; switches, variable capacitors and polished tube shields the old girl was again fired up. Hmm, need to replace a dial light (Tnx W8TTH). Wow, with a 40m dipole the radio was playing sweet cw notes into the speaker! 80m and 40m were great and 20m wasn’t bad (a bit “drifty”)!

Since I had the radio out of the case I thought I’d tackle the case issue. Originally the S-76 had a black case so sanding on the gray case removed much of the scratches and

two coats later of Krylon Satin Black I had a very nice looking S-76 that was working!

Check out the S meter on the right front ...wow, you can really see it and it’s the largest s meter ever put on a radio. Although this radio worked and I had some time into it, I decided it wasn’t something I really needed nor really had room for. The internet said they were selling for between \$70-\$125 dollars depending on condition. It took me all of 15 minutes to sell it on QTH.com for the estate. W3AV said he had the matching speaker that was just looking for a radio and would be pleased to take it off my hands for \$100 plus shipping...SOLD!

Technician Classes Starting Soon!!!

**The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Will
Be Holding Technician Classes
On Saturday April 17 and Saturday April 24, 2010**

**Classes will be held at the Lenawee County Airport
in the Civil Air Patrol Building**

**Classes will begin at 8:00 AM and last until approximately
4:30 PM each day with an hour break at noon.**

**Testing will be conducted on the 24th after
the lunch break.**

**For more details contact Ginny Schutte 517.263.7363
or email w8ttx@yahoo.com**

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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

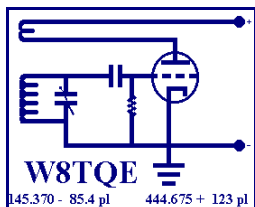
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

Adrian ARC 35th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September 16, 2010
Hamfest Chairman: KG8CO Brian
cqkg8co@yahoo.com

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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First Class