

# The Tickler

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

I hope everyone's summer is going well. Our year has been great so far.

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 was just beautiful. I would like to thank all of you that showed up to help out this year and I would like to especially thank Mark NU8Z for the great job he did organizing the Hamfest this year. 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 as well. Norm W8TTH and I were inside one of the buildings this year instead of being out in the flea market area due to our camper being up north. I only saw a few of you folks there this year. I missed you.

The Kalamazoo, Michigan Hamfest is in October. Norm and I will not be attending this year as we have other commitments. If you get a chance to go, it is usually a good Hamfest.

Last month's Ice Cream Social/meeting was held at the CAP building. If you didn't attend the event, you missed out on a good time with good friends.

I will not be at the meeting next month as I am having knee surgery that day, but plan on attending the November meeting. I will see you then, if not before.

I would like to thank Mark NU8Z also for taking care of publishing our newsletter this month. He graciously offered to handle the task while Ted K8AQM is in Europe this month. I hope he is having a fantastic time.

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 things through the website. Also, don't forget that, Ted K8AQM, will be back next month, so please give him things to publish. 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 October 29th.

73,s  
Ginny W8TTX



## KG8CO 160m Tower Project

Brian, KG8CO has been enjoying 160m with his beverage antennas and inverted L but has decided he needs a bit more punch than the inverted L gives. His current project is installing a full size quarter wave a vertical tower for 160m. That means about a 130 foot insulated base tower with non conductive guy wires! You can see the stack of Rohn 25 tower to the left and the hole for the base in the pictures.

With the help of Don N8AMM the cement was poured and in the bottom picture is the base showing the insulators that will be used to support the Rohn 25 quarter wave vertical. The base insulators were supplied by Norm W8TTH, and of course any machining that was required was also done by Norm. The next step is to “build” the tower and attach the non-conductive guy wires. Of course a very large radial field is planned and the base of this tower

Last year we gave the N8CC crew a real run for the money in the CQWW 160m SSB Contest; they beat us by less than one hundred Qs. This year with the new tower and additional beverage antennas (and some additional operators), we hope to close that gap and gain ground on the guys over in Nashville, MI! The N8CC station is nothing short of awesome and has been developed through the years to a very high level of production working DX and in contests.

Brian will have the tower up by the middle of October and the radials installed. The beverages go up when the farmers harvests the soil beans. N8KR is hoping to try out the new and improved station in the ARRL 160m CW Contest in early December. It should be a very good test for the upcoming battle with the N8CC crew in February. Go Ken go!



### Adrian Hamfest 2012:

The 2012 AARC Hamfest was a success!! We made some money!!

Initial indications are that we made a (after all expenses) profit of ~ \$800 I found that we had not been invoiced for hamfest fliers and tickets. They forgot? I have included that future bill in the calculations.

I want to thank everyone that helped out on the hamfest. It could not be done without you folks. It went off like clockwork because you all know exactly what to do and did it well. Again this year I heard many comments on the uniqueness of the Adrian hamfest. “a small, friendly, sellers hamfest”

Again, thank you all for your help!

**See the Pictures on the next page**

**Mark NU8Z—Hamfest Chairman**



# The 2012 Adrian Amateur Radio Club Hamfest



Left:  
KC8DAR is dealing



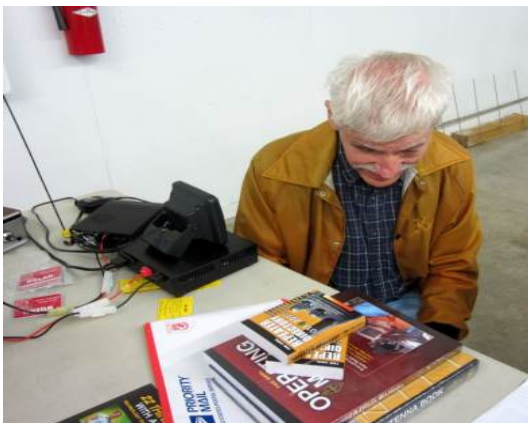
Right:  
Don & Dick  
VE Session  
One New Ham!!!



Left :  
The flea Market



Right :  
Golden Oldies



Left :  
K8KIC "talk in" table  
GPS's putting Ken out  
of business !



Right:  
W8TTH, KG8CO &  
K8TLT round table  
QSO. (Skinny guy in  
background are N8ET  
and NU8Z.)



Left:  
  
Our very tired President  
(Ginny) W8TTX. . Doing  
double duty Kitchen and VE  
testing



Right:  
Nice old rig!

## AARC Club Gossip! .....

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

...N8AMM has a three element 17m yagi up now and is working on a three element 12m yagi?  
 ...K8NP fixed K8KIC's Alpha Delta when it fell. Neil is quite the tree climber!

**The above "did you know that's" are Ted's. These were there when I got this document. The below "did you know that" are from me. As we all know Ted sometimes takes a little literary latitude and license when it comes to creating these things. I will continue that tradition because I know that is what you all like and want.. You guess True or False?**

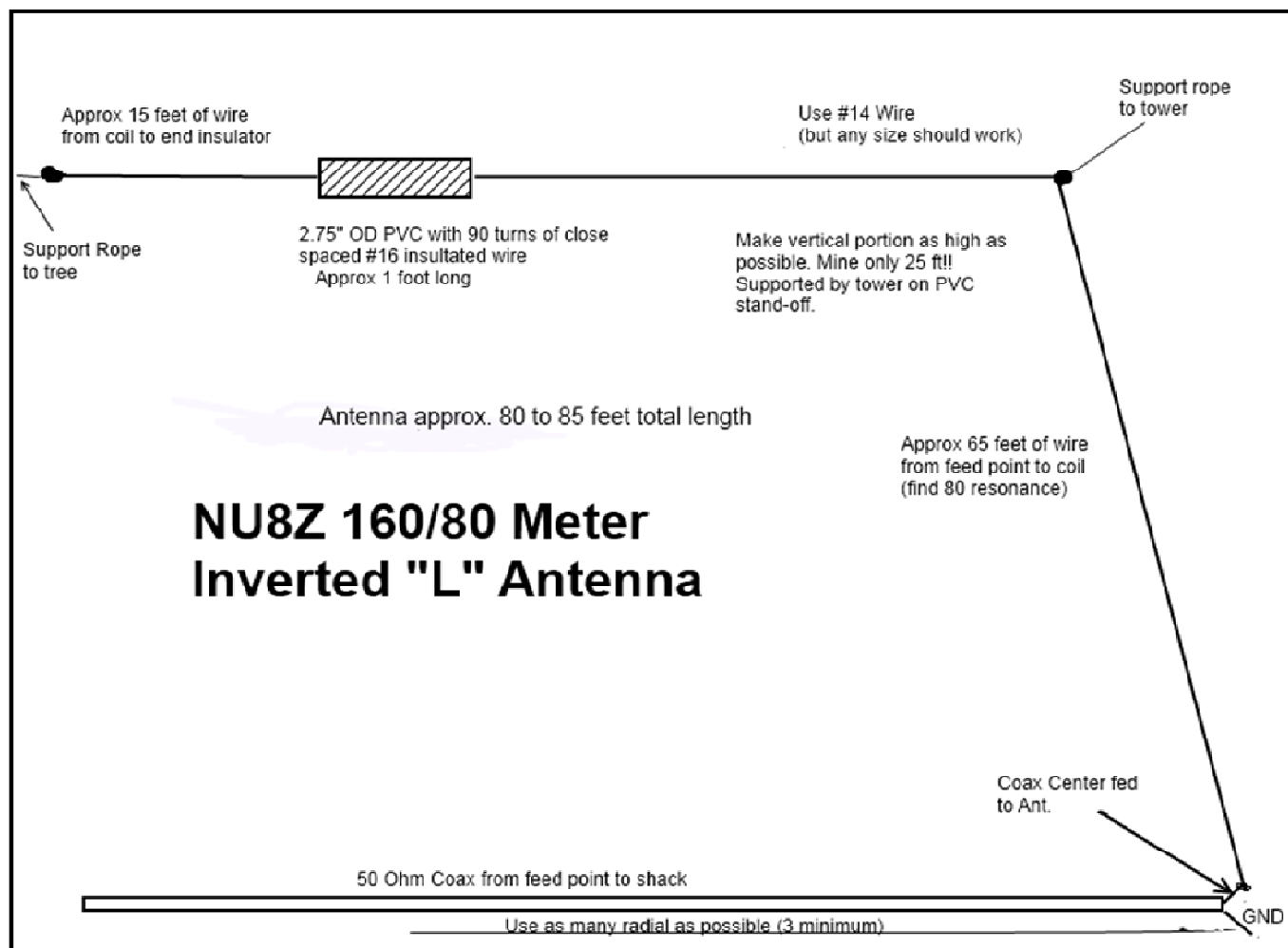
...K8NP and his Euchre partner beat K8KIC and K8HCL all 7games (one game was 10-0 skunk)! True!  
 ... Ted K8AQM is going to build a moon bounce station with the goal of working it long path?  
 ... Norm W8TTH said it was too chilly at the hamfest and had a table inside this year?  
 .... Bob K2IBM went "postal" on ham that failed to follow his parking instruction at the hamfest?  
 ....Dave K8AA can copy RTTY by ear. Amazing!!??  
 .... Marti Lane OH2BH, recently asked Ted K8AQM where he should go next?  
 ....Neil KC8DAR has given Joe Walsh WB6ACU guitar lesions??  
 ... K8AQM had a hard drive failure during a contest. He retyped his log by memory with no mistakes?  
 ...W3LPL, KC1XX and K3LR call Brian KG8CO for advice on antennas.???  
 ....Vince W8ZJE told Hiram Percy Maxim's father to buy the kid some radio parts?  
 ....Don's (N8AMM) SKCC number is unlisted ?  
 .... NU8Z has a voice that is so distinctive he recently ran a contest and never had to give his call??  
 .... Larry K8LNR had a guy pay for his Adrian Hamfest ticket with a \$5 roll of dimes (hard times)  
 .... The dirt and rocks from KG8CO's tower hole was dumped in the ocean. New DXCC country??  
 .... This will be the last time Mark NU8Z is asked to do the Tickler ???

## AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur radio club board met at the CAP building at the LENAWEE county Airport at 7:00 pm on 8-27-2012. The following persons were present: Ginny W8TTX, Larry W8LNR, Norm W8TTH, Mark NU8Z, Bob K2IBM, Joe K8YZA, Neil KC8DAR and Bill KA8ARK. We discussed the Hamfest, and Joe K8YZA reported on the SET, Meeting adj at 7:30 pm.

The Adrian Amateur radio club met at the CAP building at the Lenawee County Airport at 7:30 PM, on 8-27-2012 with 23 persons present and was called to order by president Ginny W8TTX. Roll call was by callsign. A motion to accept the minutes as published in the Tickler was made by- Bob K2IBM, seconding the minutes was Scott KA8THW. The financial report by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$6,774.50 and was accepted by a motion from Norm W8TTH, Neil KC8DAR made the second, the motion passed. The club also discussed the hamfest, and we were reminded that the dues are due. An emergency exercise was reported by Joe K8YZA. The 50/50 drawing was won by Joe K8YZA. The meeting adjourned for ice cream at 8:00 PM.

Secretary Bill KA8ARK



With the summer coming to an end, it will soon be time for the low bands to quite down from the summer time static and for darkness to start displacing daylight as the days shorten. Not good for some things, but great news for those that want to work 80 and 160 meter DX.

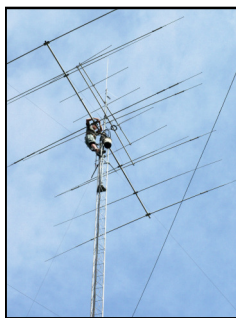
I live on a small city lot. It is not possible to have a full size inverted "L". I have solved this problem with the NU8Z shortened inverted "L" antenna. This antenna is loosely based on the old W9INN designs and the use of the so call "resonator" traps. This antenna will get you on the band and allow to work both stateside and DX. I have been able to work about 120 countries on 160 meters in the last three years. It also works just as well on 80 meters. If you should decide to build this antenna and have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me. Have Fun ! NU8Z

#### Antenna Notes:

- I used two 6 ft ground rods and 2 full size  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave radial bent around my fence line
- May need to tweak dimensions. The position of the coil on the wire determines the 80 meter resonance point. And the number of turns on the coil determines how much wire you will need downstream of the coil to achieve 160 meter resonance. (See Diagram)
- Make sure the wire on the coil is close spaced. This means one turn touching the other. The only separation is the thickness of the insulation on the wire.
- The PVC coil is not critical. Dimensions may vary a bit, but will affect the length of wire beyond the coil. In general the coil has to be substantial enough to provide a high impedance on 80 meters so that it functions somewhat like a trap or switch.



## W8LNR Antenna Repairs



Larry W8LNR has a very good antenna system, a 6 element TH-6 at 80 feet, a Cushcraft 17m/12m three element yagi at 88 feet, a four element 6m yagi at 92 feet and a dual band 2m/440 at 95 feet. Last year the pin through the rotor broke and his antenna began to free spin...not good! Thanks to the efforts of Don N8AMM, Larry's antenna mast was "locked in place and very little damage was done to the antennas. The TH-6 had to have a new coax balun made and installed, the jacket on the 6m coax was scuffed up a bit and the 17/12m antennas was 90 degrees turned from the correct position.



The summer has been really hot and those days when it wasn't too hot either the wind was blowing or Don was working. Finally the weather cooled, Don's schedule was right and the antenna repairs were made. The two pictures show Don hard at work there on the tower making the necessary repairs.

According to Larry all is right with his antennas now and "maybe", just maybe Larry will get on for the 10m SSB nets on Tuesday and Thursday nights! He really has no excuse but is claiming his shack is tore up...and that's really no excuse at all for everyone knows, "a neat shack is the sign of a sick mind!"

Thanks to Don Larry is back up and running!



**Girl Scout "Code Talker"** If you all remember the call went out a few meetings back for someone to speak to a group of Girl Scouts at the regional gathering. Bob K2IBM had received a request from the Girl Scouts and did all he could to get a volunteer. After much back and forth, scheduling and vacation issues the call for help went unanswered. I was also one of the club members that did not step up to answer the call. But things changed!!

Well somehow the ole chief Girl Scout Leader got my phone number. There I was, it was a week night about 8:00pm when it happen. There I sat all defenseless and unprepared for what was about to happen. Then phone rang and it was her, the chief Girl Scout leader. She laid her sad story on me about seeking help to educate these scouts on the history of Morse Code. The theme of their weekend was nostalgic in the sense in that they were studying what the girl scout did in the old days. Being unprepared for this call I was like puddy in her hands. She had caught me flatfooted and unprepared to respond with some excuse. I had been had!!

Well, I agreed to talk to the Girl Scout at the Camp O'the Hills scout camp which is southwest for Brooklyn. There were about 100 plus girls ranging from ages 6 to 17. I talk to them in four different groups that were arranged by age. I had made up a powerpoint presentation that had some background on the invention and implementation of Morse Code. The girls were really very interested. Even though I admitted that for all practical purposes, Morse Code has seen it's best days past, I did convince them that when all else fails it would be code that could get the message through. Also just like many other activities that we no longer need to do, there are still many people that enjoy doing it. I talked about the ham operators ability to communicate with others around the world with minimal language barriers when using the code. For perspective I showed the video from the Jay Leno show where Morse code operators beat the world text sending champion. The real fun started when they got their hands on the Keys and code practice oscillators and stated spending the code. They did very well and had a lot of fun. I underestimated the ability of the kids to do this. If I had it to do again, I would have spent less time talking and more time letting them do thier own thing. Kids are incredible learners!! Now for the question? Who gave that woman my number? I think I know, but lack the evidence needed for a conviction. All is forgiven! It was fun! **de NU8Z**

## President

Virginia Schutte, **W8TTX**

[w8ttx@yahoo.com](mailto:w8ttx@yahoo.com)

## Vice President

Caleb Squires, **KK1G**

[calebsquires@yahoo.com](mailto:calebsquires@yahoo.com)

## Secretary

Bill Groover, **KA8ARK**

[billgro@hotmail.com](mailto:billgro@hotmail.com)

## Treasurer

Mark Hinkleman, **NU8Z**

[Cqnu8z@comcast.net](mailto:Cqnu8z@comcast.net)

## Executive Board

Neil Griffith, **KC8DAR**

[njgriffith@verizon.net](mailto:njgriffith@verizon.net)

Dick Denzel, **K8GX**

[K8gx@tc3net.net](mailto:K8gx@tc3net.net)

Norman Schutte, **W8TTH**

[Norm@normsfab.com](mailto:Norm@normsfab.com)

Larry Lacy, **W8LNR**

[W8LNR@aol.com](mailto:W8LNR@aol.com)

**Editor Ted Rachwal**

**K8AQM**

[K8AQM@arrl.net](mailto:K8AQM@arrl.net)

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 16, 2012

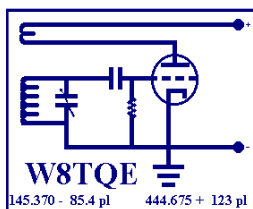
Hamfest Chair

Mark NU8Z@comcast.net

### AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

[www.w8tqe.com](http://www.w8tqe.com)

[adrianarc@mailman.qth.net](mailto:adrianarc@mailman.qth.net)



Adrian Amateur Radio Club  
Box 26  
Adrian, MI 49221



**First Class**