

The Ticker

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone. I hope you all are enjoying your summer.

Norm W8TTH and I certainly are having a busy, but great summer. We just got back from another week of the Buckley Old Engine Show. We became members of this club a few years ago and we both spend the whole week there helping out with the show. Norm has also been spending a lot of time there helping prior to the show. It was fun the week of the show, but it was a lot of work. Norm ran around with either his golf cart or 1946 Dodge welding truck most of the week. I spent time working in the Sound Booth helping make announcements and giving out the member materials, etc. That is a job I am well suited for with my Ham Radio background. I had several comments from the attendees that they wished I manned the booth for the whole event, because they could hear and understand every word I said over the PA system. I just told them that I was a Ham Radio Operator and was not afraid to talk into the mic. Not afraid to talk (imagine that).

Next month we have two hamfests. The Findlay hamfest will be on September 9th and of course ours will be the following Sunday, September 16th. Mark NU8Z will have more information at the meeting this month. It is time again for our **Annual Ice Cream Social Meeting**. It will be held at the Club house. Please bring your bowls, spoons, and favorite ice cream toppings to the event. Ice cream will be furnished.

Just to let everyone know Dave KA8KDS made it through his surgery and is recovering quite well. Dave has helped our club with testing when we needed his help and he is also a very dear friend of mine.

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 August 27th, I hope to see you all there.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

New Editor or Smaller Paper?

Hey guys, the paper has been becoming the "K8AQM Newsletter" and "Telegraph Key Bulletin", it's not suppose to be that. I never get any input from members and quite frankly I'm running out of ideas and getting very uncomfortable telling you about what "I'm doing". We have many members who operate and could offer an article now and again. So we either need a new editor with new ideas or the old one needs some input. The paper will be much smaller from here on in if nothing changes.



DXpedition Key(s)

One of the major hassles about traveling on DXpeditions is packing (and paying for) all the gear needed on trips. Now that I do a lot of straight key work I find the straight key is another item I have to pack. Recently I had the chance to pick up a very fine key/paddle combination made by JA7GHD. Not only is the unit both a straight key and paddle but is just about the same size as the Bencher paddle I normally take. The action of both the straight key and the paddle is excellent and a pleasure to use in either mode. See www.mtechnologies/ghd/ for details of GHD keys.



KC8TQB Sells a Load of Gear!

Dave KC8TQB, inherited a "load" of gear from his brother's estate. Mainly vhf/uhf and test gear but several hf pieces of gear were part of the estate. Unfortunately much of the gear did not work or its condition was truly unknown. You can see Heathkit, Swan, Gonset, Eico and many other pieces in this picture but there was much that just couldn't be included in the photo.



Since Dave didn't want to check it all out and repair what could be repaired, it was decided to try to sell the entire lot. Thanks to the help of Rich K8UV and myself we were able to put the gear up for sale on QTH.com and would you believe it sold in less than 30 minutes! It was a "pickup only sale" as shipping would have been outrageous! The "pile" sold so fast that we had two buys within the 30 minutes it was listed. Dave's wife Marge W8MAG, is happy, she can get her car back into the garage now!

SB-200 Workshop and Restoration



Ken N8KR has recently retired and has begun acquiring equipment to restore and resell. I went with Ken to Kettering University in Flint, MI (old GMI) where Ken bought their entire amateur radio club gear. Among the purchases were two "really used" SB-200 amplifiers. Since I was already working on one of mine I offered to work on his and see if they can be brought back to life. After wrestling them out of their case and cleaning dirt and dust with a clean paint brush the next step was to carefully bring the power supplies back to life. You can see the bank of caps which hadn't been turned on for maybe 20 years in the photo. "IF" they can be brought back to life you need a "variac" (shown in the bottom photo) which can deliver lower AC to the unit. I started with 40 volts for 24 hours, then 80 volts for 24 hours and finally 100 volts for 12 hours. The unit on the left now runs fine when turned on and rig in the middle is in the "cooking" stage at 80 volts. All is currently well and no smoke has been let out! It is really import to "reform" older capacitors this way as the capacitors can "blow" and also take out the transformer when fired up after sitting 20 years!

The cases are all cleaned and repainted and the face plates are cleaned. After "cooking," the amps will be buttoned up and connected to a Kenwood TS-820s, also acquired from Kettering. No need to worry about relay voltages being too high because the TS-820s was made to handle amps like the SB-200. One amp was miswired and only had one 572B but I think Ken will come out of this project with two working SB-200 amplifiers.

If you work with older gear get yourself a variac! They can save you a lot of grief and money when working with older gear!

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...K8KIC is "going nuts" fixing the accordion he got for \$10.00! What do you expect for \$10.00!
 ...The "Schoonmaker" crew is planning to network their computers for next year's Museum Ships event?
 ...KG8CO has staked-out his full size 1/4 wave insulated tower for 160m?
 ...Ken, N8KR is moving to Defiance, OH next month?
 ...N8AMM has installed a new tower?
 ...KG8CO and K8AQM are checking out KH8 for 2014....maybe even A35?
 ...NU8Z will mentor the Girl Scouts in CW?
 ...N8KR is going into the ham gear resale business?

AARC Club Minutes

ADRIAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Board/Meeting Minutes

Board Minutes

Present were: Dick-K8GX, Mark-NU8Z, Ginny-W8TTX, Norm-W8TTH, Larry-W8LNR, Bob-K2IBM

Discussed: Badges, dues, station manager possibilities, and the Hamfest

Meeting

Roll call 20 present.

50/50 was won by Larry W8LNR and was donated back to the club.

Minutes approved on a motion by Don N8AMM, 2nd by Bob K2IBM

Treasurer's Report approved on a motion by Mike N8JXY and 2nd by Bill KD8WSL

Items discussed: an emergency exercise is scheduled on August 30th brought up by Joe K8YZA; a morse code presentation for the Onsted Girl Scouts in Sept more information to come; Mark NU8Z to do the newsletter in September due to Ted's absence; the Angola Hamfest date was mentioned; there is a special event station for the 2012 Olympics on 17 and 20 meters station call is 2O12L; there was also a mention of Dave KA8KDS a FCARC member having heart surgery. No other business

Program: Ted K8AQM presented a presentation on W3AO the largest field day and a spoof on field day

Submitted by Ginny W8TTX

Making the Most of Being Antenna Farm-less!

Rich K8UV knows exactly how to make the most of limited antenna space. Rich lives in Manchester Hills a housing park with limited yard space. It's a great place requiring low maintenance but not a place for large antennas! This has not stopped Rich from building a fine station with choices of antennas to use. Rich has a mobile antenna mount on his deck railing with antennas for 40m and 75m.

His latest antenna is a knock-off of the Force 12 Sigma V covering 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10m and built by Jeff N8CC (we affectionately call it the Sigma 5.1). To the right is the control unit on the antenna which is a vertical dipole nine feet tall and ground mounted. With relays controlled from inside the shack Rich can change bands easily and the coils in the relay unit allow Rich to set the swr at 1:1 on each band. In the bottom picture Rich is standing in the middle of his antenna farm and the vertical dipole is shown mounted in front of his deck.

In the picture to the right you can see Riches 40m Ham Stick and 75m Ham Stick on the rail. Other Sticks can be mounted there to offer additional bands.

Rich's third antenna selection is shown just above his awning in the bottom picture and is the driven element from a Mosely TA-33 jr which covers 20, 15 and 10m; all with a great swr.

Rich has taken over a closet for his "shack" and has it packed nicely with a great station. Clearly Rich has never listened to those who say they can't make an antenna farm in their limited spaces. Rich constantly works DX with a 100 watts and his antenna farm. Those of you who have limited space might want to talk with Rich about how you can get on HF and what antenna options are available to you.

Well done K8UV!

73, K8AQM



The Ugliest Bug I Have Ever Seen!

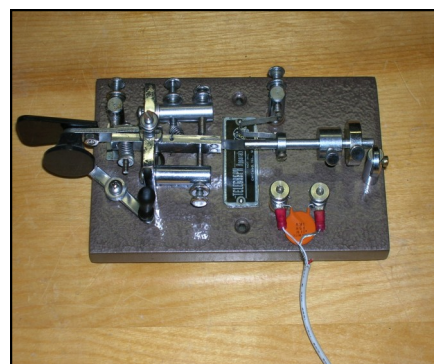
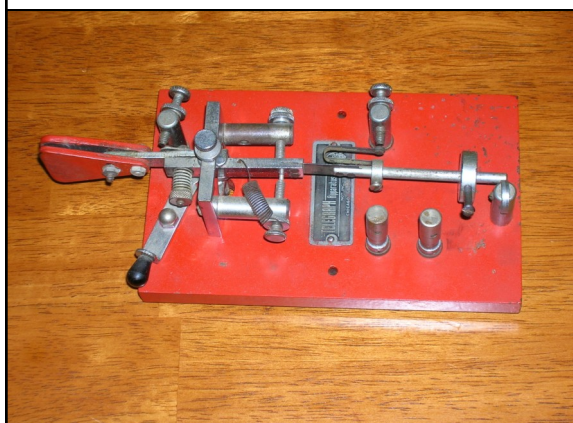
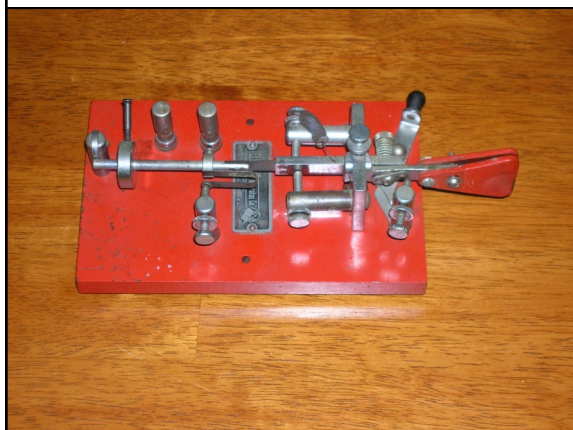
Ugh! Who would do such a thing as this to a bug?!? The base and paddles are painted "Coast Guard orange" (according to KG8CO), some parts are missing, some parts must have come from "Mars" and the spring, well lets just say someone's ink pen isn't working properly! And what is that resistor-capacitor "thing" on the bottom? Where is the missing copper strip that's suppose to be on the bottom; but then what can you expect for \$20.00? That's what it cost from ebay and I was the only bidder! This is one of the famous "hole-in-the-wall bugs made by the Telegraph Apparatus Company back in the 1940s.

So now the "remake"; lots of "TLC" is going to be needed here along with some different pieces of hardware. First, get rid of that "Coast Guard orange" and make the base and paddles presentable. Next, check into my parts bag and see if I might have some of those missing parts. Going to need lots of stainless steel hardware to bring this bug back to life. Good thing Vibroplex parts are basically interchangeable with many of the older bugs. "Simple Green" and "Brasso" will bring a shine to the parts I keep so maybe there is hope for this basket case!

I soaked the base and paddles in "Simple Green" along with the other parts and after 24 hours and a dental pic (great tool to have on your workbench) I was able to scrape-off all the paint on the base and take it down to bare metal. I primed and applied three finish coats to the base with my favorite "hammered" coat paint and cleaned and polished the remaining parts. I had to order a few parts from Vibroplex (they're all pretty much interchangeable) for a total of \$32.00 and use some of my "spares" collected from other bug refurbishing. The \$20.00 bug is now slightly over \$50.00 but as you can see from the finished photos it now is something entirely different.

Almost any key, bug or paddle can be restored and enhanced with a bit of "TLC" and time. This bug "was" the ugliest bug I had ever seen and now it sits useable and "looking good". It was worth the time, effort, money and I enjoyed the experience to see if this horrible bug could be restored to it's 1940s days of glory.

According to Dave K8AA, it's like saying you have the best "buggy whip" around. True, the bug and straight key are items used in the past and of course a "paddle and keyer" (not to mention key-board") allow for perfect code but then the idea of collecting antiques is all part of many different hobbies. Why some people even restore motor cycles from the 1970's and earlier, don't they Dave?



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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 16, 2012

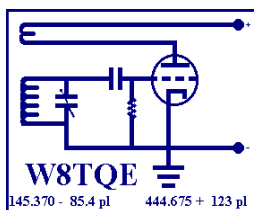
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First Class