

# The Tickler

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

I hope you all have been enjoying your fall as it will be gone and winter will be here long before we are ready.

I hope, if you got to go to the Kalamazoo Hamfest that you had a good time. Norm and I were once again at the Irish Hills Car Show that was held at the Lenawee County Fairgrounds. It was great weather and we had a good time.

I will miss all of you this month as I will not be able to attend the meeting. I will be in the hospital recovering from my knee surgery that day. I told those of you who attended the September meeting that you could come up to the hospital and we could have the meeting there. Somehow I just don't think that would go over well with the hospital staff, so we had better not do that. You can come and visit me though as I will be there more than likely until Thursday. I won't even be able to take my grandchildren Trick or Treating. I should at least get to see pictures of them dressed up for the occasion.

Even though I will still be recuperating during the month of November, Norm and I will still be attending the Fort Wayne Hamfest this year. It will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Don't expect to see me running not that I ever do, but I will be motivating more than likely with a walker. I am sure the hamfest won't be quite as enjoyable as it usually is for me, but I will still have a lot of fun visiting with all of you that attend as well as all the other folks that are there. I hope it is a good show this year, because it will be the last one we attend this year.

Once again this month at the meeting it will be time to nominate 3 board members and then we will vote on them at next month's meeting.

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 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.

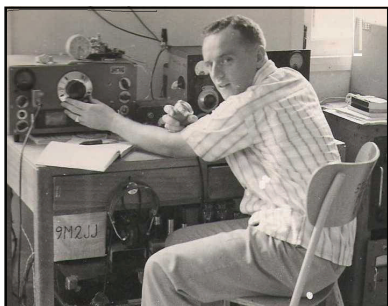
Don't forget we are starting up the Sunday night 9 o'clock 2 meter net on the Adrian repeater (145.370). I will be conducting the net for the month of November, since I will not be working due to my surgery. Please get on the air and check in, but please be patient with me as I have never led the net before. At the meeting I hope someone volunteers for the month of December.

The meeting this month will be October 29<sup>th</sup>. Have fun. Remember I will be thinking a little bit about you all, but I will probably be thinking a lot more about the nurses abusing me and my knee.

73,  
Ginny W8TTX

## KG8CO's and K8AQM's Next DXpedition

Thanks to Rich K8UV, Brian and Ted have found their next DXpedition site. According to Rich and others it's only a three hour trip by boat and is a tropical location. The site hasn't had a DXpedition in quite sometime; Rich has supplied a picture of the last known operation from this site. Unknown at this time is the prefix for this location but CO and AQM have applied for the special call sign "SL1M" or if unavailable the backup call "UF0OL would do. More details to be added later as plans firm up; at this time Brian and Ted are looking for sponsors to send them on their way!

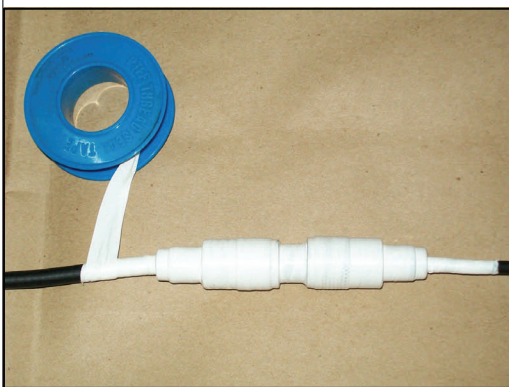


## 9M2JJ aka K1ND

Most of us know Jan K1ND, from hamfests and our club meeting but maybe what you didn't know that in his "younger days" he was 9M2JJ! That's real DX over in southeast Asia and in Malaysia. Check out the gear there in the picture; that's a National receiver with plug-in coils for band changes and an unknown transmitter behind Jan. 9M stations were rare "back then" and still aren't all that common today!

## Tip Of The Month By N8AMM

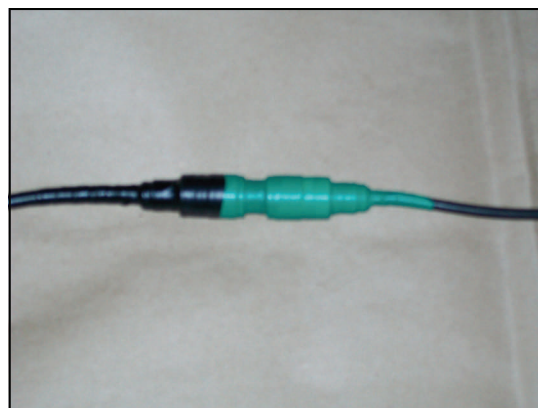
We all know RF connections need to be sealed up from the elements when outside. Coax seal covered by electrical tape, is about the best method of keeping moisture out of connections, however it is tough to remove. Trust me on this! One can spend quite a bit of precious time on the tower just removing old sealant. Looking for an easier way to remove the sealant from connections, I came up with an idea of wrapping thread sealer "teflon tape" around the connection first. This gives a base layer for the coax seal to stick to rather than the components.



Now I measure out the required amount of coax seal and cut it off. Begin molding the coax seal around the connection and down over the coax. I mold the coax seal one inch beyond the Teflon tape onto the coax.

The last step is to tape the whole thing with a "good" electrical tape. The two good

electrical tapes, which seem to hold up to the elements best are Super 33 and 88 made by 3M. Using the same process as with the Teflon tape, end with two layers of electrical tape and you have a water/weather proof connection.



## AARC Club Gossip! .....

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

...NU8Z is planning on a QRP operation this winter?  
 ...N8AMM has a new home-brew 3 L yagi for 12m?  
 ...K8KIC is fascinated with his new doorbell?  
 ...K8AQM now owns 16 bugs...the telegraph type?  
 ...N8KR is getting his station together in his new QTH in Defiance, OH?  
 ...W8TTH owns a Heathkit HW-8 QRP rig?  
 ...K8UV has a 40m stealth under-the singles 40m dipole?  
 ...KG8CO now has an awesome 160m station?  
 ...KE8FX is frustrated in getting the D-Star repeater programmed and running?  
 ...no one has made QSOs from the W8TQE station except K8KIC, K8AQM and N8AMM?  
 ...the W8TQE shack needs an electrical wiring makeover?  
 ...K8NP had his antenna chewed on three times in a week by "creatures unknown"?  
 ...NU8Z and N8AMM both contributed articles this month? Thanks!  
 ...W8TTH has three anvils and needs a fourth?  
 ...K8UV, N8AMM, N8KR and K8AQM operated K8XXX in the SKCC Weekend Sprint?  
 ...W8TTX will run the November AARC 2m net?  
 ...N8KR has been practicing with his "bug"?  
 ...J B Weld can secure a knob on a rig, can fix a circuit board and fix a bug? Good stuff!  
 ...N8AMM has a new 40 ft tower up?  
 ...KG8CO and K8AQM gave a T32 talk to the Coldwater ARC?  
 ...K8UV has a bird feeder vertical dipole?  
 ...K8AQM had to have six bandpass filters fixed? The 250 watt filters don't like a kilowatt!  
 ...K8YZA, K8KIC, K8TLT and K2IBM were net controls for the SET activity last month?

## AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio club board met on September 24, 2012 at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport. The meeting was called to order by president Jenny W8TTX with the following persons present :Ginney W8TTX, Norm W8TTH, Dick, Larry, Bill KA8ARK. The board discussed ordering flyers for the 2013 Hamfest, Don won the 50/50 drawing and donated his share back to the club repeater fund. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

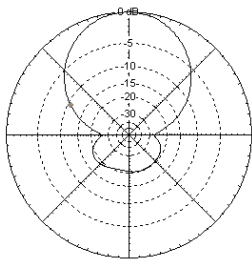
The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the Civil Air Patrol Building at 7:30 PM and was called to order by President Ginny W8TTX with 13 persons present. The August minutes were approved as published in the Tickler by a motion from Norm W8TTH second by Dick K8GX, the motion passed. The Treasurers report showed a balance of \$8,341.06 and was presented by president Ginny W8TTX in the absence of the treasurer, Mark NU8Z. The report was accepted by a motion by Bob K2IBM second by Norm W8TTX. The motion passed with one token no vote. The members were reminded that dues are due. Bob K2IBM reported on the Simulated Emergency Test that was held at MIS on August 30. Club members discussed getting the weekly net back up and it was decided to start on November 4 at 9 PM. A motion was made by Norm W8TTH second by Don to make a donation, in the same amount as was made last year, to the Civil Air Patrol. The motion passed. It was noted that there was one upgrade at the Hamfest. The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Norm W8TTH second by Denny WE8Z.

Secretary Bill KA8ARK.



Total Field

EZNEC



Azimuth Plot  
Elevation Angle 15.0 deg.  
Outer Ring 12.24 dBi

Slice Max Gain 12.24 dBi @ Az Angle = 91.0 deg.  
Front/Back 20.79 dB  
Beamwidth 67.8 deg.; -3dB @ 57.2, 125.0 deg.  
Sidelobe Gain -6.4 dBi @ Az Angle = 216.0 deg.  
Front/Sidelobe 16.64 dB

24.895 MHz

## Building a 3L 12m Yagi

With EZNEC antenna modeling program and a well stocked scrap pile of aluminum you can build some great yagi antennas. Don N8AMM wanted to build a 3 element 12m yagi and with the help of EZNEC it took only about two and half hours to gather and build his antenna. With roughly 9 db forward gain and 20 db front to back this antenna should be a great addition to the N8AMM antenna farm and give Don an outstanding 12m signal for chasing DX!



## New KG8CO 160m Quarter Wave Vertical

Last month you saw the holes being dug and cement poured for the quarter wave insulated base tower at "DX Central" (aka KG8CO's station), this month I'm happy to report Brian with help from his friends has the tower completely erected and has begun the process of developing his ground system. From the stack of 12 sections of Rohn 25 to the addition of the 8 foot "tuning stinger" and the Phillystran non conductive guy wires Brian has a full size base insulated quarter wave 160m vertical to go along with his six 1000 foot beverage listening antennas for 160m.

It wasn't an easy job to assemble the tower and to pull the sections up as Brian secured them and added the



guy wires. It didn't bode well when we noticed a "buzzard" circling Brian as he got higher and higher up the tower! But as the Bard said, "All's well that ends well" and the tower was safely finished. You can see the relative size of the completed tower compared to the climber and a member of the ground crew at the base...whew! Once the tower was completed Brian checked the tension on the guy wires to ensure the tensions were equal and the tower straight.



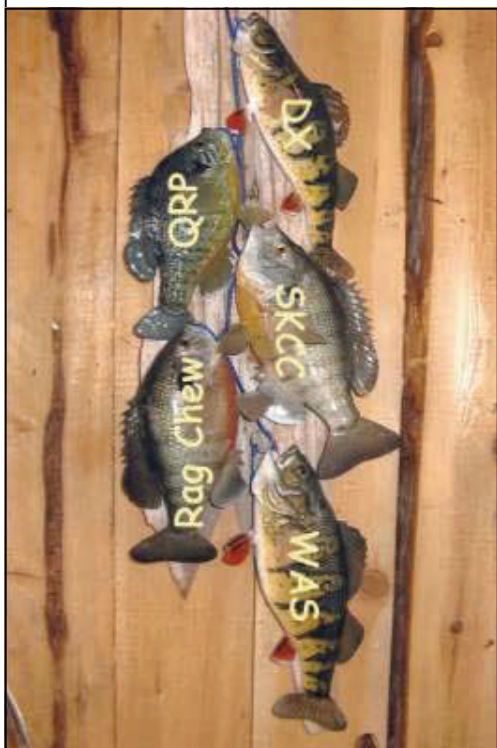
One of the most important areas of a properly working vertical is the ground system to gain maximum efficiency. Brian used the ideas gained from research and the excellent ground system employed at the N8CC station. A sixteen by 12 foot area of aluminum sheeting is used around the base of the tower and attached to that sheet will be at least 120 quarter wave radials fanned out in 360 degrees! Three eight foot ground rods will also be hammered into the ground around the very base of the tower. Brian will use a remote motorized tuner to give a 1:1 swr reading across the entire band.

The entire system will be completed before the ARRL 160m CW Contest when Ken N8KR will give it the "smoke test" in preparation for our challenge to the N8CC guys in the CQWW 160m SSB Contest! Brian's hard work will surely pay off!



## Hey Mister, what are you fishing for?

By NU8Z



Fishing requires a license, equipment, skills, and available time to dedicate to it. A hard-core fisherman may have lots of equipment, including many poles, reels, baits, boats & motors. Or some fishermen can take a minimal approach and catch fish from the shore with just a bamboo cane pole, line, hook, and some bait. You can fish for the common everyday fish in some local place. Or, you can travel to some other location and fish for some rare or elusive type of fish. Now there are all kinds of fishing. There is deep sea, river, & lake fishing. You can fish for perch, bass, walleye and even sharks, just to mention a few. Once we decide where and what to fish for, we can even decide how we will fish. We could still fish, cast, troll, or fly fish. We hope to catch fish and put them on the dinner plate, but that's not even a sure thing. There may be times when you catch no fish. Or, believe it or not, there are people that "catch and release" so they can catch them again! Go figure! What a diverse activity!

Let's cut to the chase here. OK, now what makes a fisherman? Let's say for the sake of discussion you have never fished before. Do you become a fisherman when you get the fishing license? Or, do you also need to get a fishing pole and at least the minimal equipment? Or maybe you are not a fisherman until you actually start fishing? Or, let's dare to be great and say you actually need to start catching fish to be a fisherman!!

OK, now the ham radio part. I bet you can already see where this is going? Yea, that's right, fellow hams; **"it's time to go fishing!"** It does not matter what equipment you have, there are fish (QSO's) to be caught. If you are QRP with a minimal antenna set up it's like fishing from shore with ultra-light line and pole. If you have 5 or 5 stacked beams on 20 meters and 5kw amp it's like fishing with a stick of dynamite! OK, if we need to fish to be fisherman, we need to operate to be ham. I personally believe that it is very important to decide what kind of fish we are going after and develop your techniques for snagging and catching them. We as hams need to find our areas of interest within this very diverse hobby and establish our goals or objectives and document our progress and accomplishments. This is how I have kept my interest in this hobby going for many years. We can fish for any number of things. There long term goals like [WAS](#), [DXCC](#) and [WAZ](#), or it can be a short term thing like setting a goal of working 25 countries on a contest weekend. That's like fishing at a trout farm (but fun!!). There are numerous organizations such as [SKCC](#), [FISTS](#), [QRP ARCI](#), [10-10](#), and many others that sponsor different milestone and awards programs. See the [DX Zone](#) and [K1BV](#) awards links for even more info. Many of these require no QSL cards. Some like DXCC and WAS do, but so what. We hams can also "catch and release". Who needs the fish to prove you caught it? Maybe you have no interest in any awards? How about you set a goal of making an average of one QSO a day, or checking into one net per week?

One last very important thing, if a fisherman keeps his fish on a stringer, in a creel or basket, where does a ham keep his catch? If you guessed a logging program, you are correct. I believe that a good logging system is as important as any other piece of equipment. It is used to track your progress, confirm milestones and maintain your level of enthusiasm. It is the tool that ties all your contacts together and makes it a "body of work". You can build of your database, sort and manipulate as you wish to track you goals. For me, it is the glue that holds it all together. There is a very good free suite of programs out there called [DXLab](#). You can also see the list of the following [logging programs](#).

**Let's go fishing**

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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 38th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September , 2013

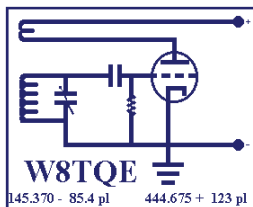
Hamfest Chair

Mark NU8Z@comcast.net

### AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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**First Class**