

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

We are starting to notice frost in the mornings, but I guess we should getting used to it by now. I hope everyone is doing well. I hope we will all stay healthy this year.

I am writing my letter earlier than usual since Bob K2IBM will be out helping the victims of the hurricane and the snow storm out east.

W8TTH and I are planning once again to attend the Fort Wayne Hamfest. I am looking forward to seeing all our friends. I will have to use a walker and a cane, since I had my surgery at the end of October. I will have started actual physical therapy by then and I am sure I will be doing ok by then. My knee is improving very well.

Norm W8TTH will once again be out hunting I am sure when deer season opens. However, he will not be able to hunt the weekend of the Fort Wayne Hamfest. It always falls near opening day.

I missed last month's meeting since I had surgery on our last meeting day, but I understand that this year's officer election was basically an appointment for all of the same officers with the exception that Bob K2IBM has accepted the position of Vice President since there were no other volunteers. Thank guys. Mark NU8Z informs me that we still need to vote on the Board members at the meeting this month.

Neil KC8DAR will still be on the board for another year. Thanks to all of you that re-elected me for another term.

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 make sure to thank them once in a while.

The meeting this month will be November 26th, I hope to see you all there.

73,
Ginny W8TTX



CW Wine?

Yup, you see it correctly, "Morse Code Wine. Made in Australia, this is a wine honoring Australia's radio telegraphers. This is a light "fruity" wine and as the label says, sold by the "Shiraz" distributors. The cost of the wine varies by sellers, I bought eight bottles of this wine for special CW events here at the station. There is also a "Morse

Code Chardonnay" and we will try that too! It is yet to be determined if imbibing with this wine will improve your cw copying and sending abilities, we'll let you know!



Restoring A Classic

Back in 1961 when my license came I use to pour through QST and CQ magazines thinking about all the transmitters and receivers I'd like. One of my favorite "wish transmitters" was the Eico 723 60 watt cw only transmitter. When I retired I was able to but a beat-up and abused Eico 723, that was eight years ago. I finally got around to refurbishing, repairing and repainting the 723. On the left is an original &23 and the right is my "rebuild". It puts out about 30 watts but looks like a "kilowatt" now. The knobs all had hole through them but Judy's "button supply" and some JB Weld allowed me to "restructure" the buttons. The difference in the meter was a result of someone else's work and I just carefully repainted it to match the buttons and case trim.



NU8Z's Web Links

The following is a sampling of some interesting and useful links that I have found on the web.

Antenna Modeling Program: [MMANA-GAL](#) is an excellent free antenna modeling program. It also allows the importing of data from other modeling programs. I also found an [online tutorial](#) that will get you going.

Electronics Tutorial: For those of you that need a little "brush up" on electronics, check out this [Electronics e-book](#) and [technical resource](#) page.

On Line Propagation Program: What's the best time and band to work a given station? ? The very popular and professional grade VOCAP propagation program has an ["online version"](#) that is available for all to use. The US government likely spent a millions of dollars developing this program . It's time to get your share back!

DX "What's Happening?" The [NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page](#) provides a great "one stop" shopping location for DXing and Contest information. This is a great "on line" toolbox!

Making CW Contacts: WB8FSV has a nice webpage that describe the process of operating CW. The title is: ["A Beginner's Guide to Making CW Contacts"](#) Don't let the title fool you. It's likely very good information for all.

Who's Working What? [DXMAPS](#) is a real time on line depiction off what is on the air and who is working who. It uses data from DX clusters, WSPR networks and reverse beacon networks to depict radio propagation paths on a map. It can be filtered to provide info and maps for any and all bands and world locations.

WebSDR: Is one of many an "online" SDR radios that are located around the world. [WebSDR](#) and others allow you to listen from the specified SDR radios location. One use of these "on line" receivers is the testing of your radio and antennas. You can listen to your own signal and make comparisons.

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

...N8KR tried to run his 220 v amp on 110v? It didn't work!
 ...K8KIC lost 7 out of 7 games in euchre but next time won 6 out of 7 games?
 ...K8AQM added a another station to the shack? There are now eight rigs in the shack?
 ...K8XXX has added a "C" to its SKCC number...8577C? W8TQE will be next!
 ...W8TTH and W8TTX rode the Col. James M. Schoonmaker to its new dock site in Toledo?
 ...NU8Z is building a QRP rig for his Florida trip this winter?
 ...K8AQM has applied for ZF2TR for the last week in January in the Cayman Islands?
 ...K8UV enjoys his "stealth" 40m under-the-shingles dipole?
 ...The KG8CO 160m vertical has 120 130 foot radials?
 ...KC8ITC use to get up at 3:30 AM on Saturdays to go to the farmer's market? Ugh!
 ...K8AQM added two more tribanders to the antenna farm? You can't have too many antennas!

Program for November

The program for November will be given by Neil K8NP. Neil promises to tell us all about the many uses he has discovered for "wall-wart."



W8XXX aka KG8CO

It's a bit difficult to read but this is the certificate won by W8XXX operating from KG8CO's shack in the CQWW 160m SSB contest last year. The operators were KG8CO, N8AMM, N8KR and K8AQM. W8XXX was 2nd in Michigan, 3rd in the 8th area and 7th in the US. Unfortunately, that means the N8CC team was 2nd in Michigan, 2nd in the 8th call area and 6th in the US. With Brian's new antenna system we hope to at least reverse the standings with N8CC in this year's competition!

AARC Club Minutes

Board minutes: 10-29-12 Those present Mark NU8Z, Larry W8LNR, Norm W8TTH, Dick, K8GX, Neil KC8DAR and Bill, KA8ARK.

Mark NU8Z chaired both the meetings in the absence of president Ginny W8TTX.

The club met at 07:30 on 10-29-20 with 18 persons present. The September Minutes were accepted upon a motion by Norm W8TTH second by Don N8AMM motion passed. The treasurers report presented by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of \$8,257.64 and was accepted upon a motion by Norm W8TTH second by Cletus K8TLT passed. Nomination of officers were as follows: Jenny W8TTX and Bob K2IBM for president, Bill KA8ARK for secretary, Mark NU8Z for treasurer. Restarting the Sunday nite net was discussed and it was decided that we would start the Sunday Net on November 4 at 9:00 PM. Mark NU8Z led a discussion of activities that present members were engaged in. The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Norm W8TTH second Phil K8HCL
 Secretary Bill KA8ARK

K8XXX IN THE SKCC WES AND SKS

This past month saw action at the AQM shack running the call K8XXX in the Straight Key Century Club events of the Weekend Sprint (WES) and the Straight Key Sprint (SKS). N8AMM Don, N8KR Ken, K8AQM Ted and K8UV Rich operated the station. Three radios were active and all cw was sent with either a straight key or a bug for both events. A total of 423 QSOs were made in the two events; 297 in the WES (about 12 hours) and 126 in the SKS (a two hour event). More QSOs could have been easily gained in the WES but the power went out in the area with three and a half hours to go in the event...nuts!

It's a real test of arm, wrist and elbow using a straight key and bug for long periods of time and after awhile one develops what is known as "a glass elbow/arm/wrist"! The WES that weekend was an extra bonus in the scoring if you worked a station sending with a bug. K8UV, N8AMM and K8AQM have used a bug for years but N8KR only began practicing about a month before with a bug!

N8KR stayed with the bug at the beginning but felt more comfortable with a straight key and switched to the straight key after an hour of serious bug work! K8XXX was also a "bonus" station during these events and you got extra points for working K8XXX on multiple bands so K8XXX was very popular in these events.

In the SKCC there are various levels of achievement for working certain numbers and classes of stations; K8XXX worked enough stations to qualify for the first level of achievement and K8XXX is now a "Centurion" and has a "C" attached to our SKCC number. K8XXX is now 8577C. The next level of achievement is the "Tribune" level and we need to work additional stations to change our "C" to "T". To achieve the "T" you need to work 50 or more "C" or "T" stations.

But the important point in these operating events was the enjoyment we had in just plain operating together and putting the station through its paces. Everything worked well, antennas, computer logging, amplifiers and transceivers. It was a great time with lots of chatter and ribbing between the operators. Snacks were available and again as usual, more calories were consumed than QSOs made!

The future plans are to get the "T" for K8XXX and then to enlist others to work on upgrading W8TQE to "C" and "T" status. If you can do cw (speeds of 10-15 wpm) maybe you want to consider joining the group and have some fun? The time commitment is short but the enjoyment is long lasting!

Also, coming up in January is the K3Y/8 operation where W8TQE gets to operate as a special event station K3Y/8, at the K8AQM shack! Lots of fun has been had by all who have participated in the K3Y/8 event in the past years.



Cleaning Antenna Aluminum

Antenna building has always been an interest of mine since becoming a ham. Until recently that has consisted of mainly wire antennas. I had an old 10m 3 el. beam that I hadn't used in years since I already have 10m on my tribander. I set out to resurrect the beam and convert it to 12m at the same time. With the help of K8AQM and his stock pile of aluminum we started the antenna conversion.

Many years of corrosion and dirt had built up on the outside and inside of the elements from sitting in storage. The first thing to be done was to clean up the antenna. Looking through the inside of the elements it was determined that something had to be run inside the length to clean out the dirt, spider webs, and whatever else the insects had deposited in them.



element.

I have several gun cleaning kits and decided several of the brass brushes used to clean the bores of guns should also fit the inside diameters of the elements. In order to shine up the connection points I put the brush into a cordless drill spin it as I run the brush in and out several times.

Once the connection area is cleaned thoroughly I run a brush the full length of the element to clean out any debris. If the cleaning rods are not long enough to push the brush through the entire length of element, I tie a length of string to the brush. Feed the string through the element and simply pull the brush through. Sometimes it is necessary to blow out the inside of the element with compressed air before you can get the string fed all the way through the

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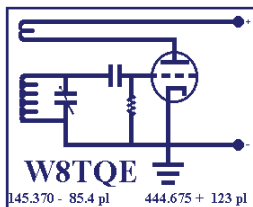
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Local Area 2 Meter Net and 10 Meter Chats
Sunday 9:00 p.m. The ARES Net on 145.370 - Ken, K8KIC -Net Control
Tuesday 10 Meter CW Local Chat at 8:00 p.m. on 28.050 +/- QRM
Tuesday and Thursday 10 Meter Local Chat 9:00 p.m. on 28.325 +/-QRM

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 2013
Hamfest Chair
Mark NU8Z@comcast.net

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First Class