

# The Tickler

*From the Prez.....*

**No Prez Sez this month**

**I think Ginny is out on the  
road and**

**Campaigning for her re-  
election**

**This fall and is**

**Too busy to write.**

**“Secret Wireless War” for March**

The march program is an excellent DVD, “Secret Wireless War” which is the story of British amateur radio operators role during WW II. The program is a one-of-a-kind and last about one hour. Don't miss this interesting program.

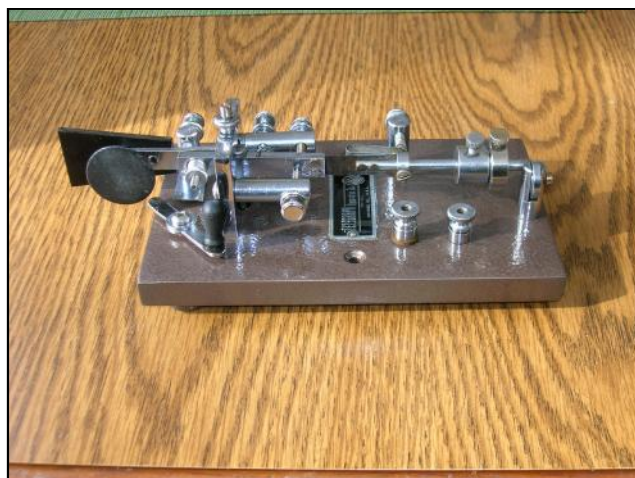
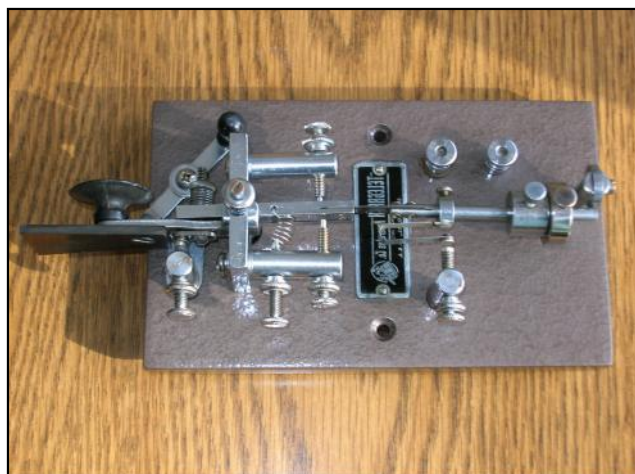
## Painting Chrome

I bought a beat-up chrome McElroy Hole-in-the-wall bug very cheap. The chrome was chipping off and flaking from the base. I don't really like chrome so I decided to put my own finish on it but painting chrome is not easy, paint doesn't stick well to chrome plating. I checked on the internet and "Googled" how to paint chrome.



There was a great You Tube video by a "kid" in North Carolina painting his chrome bumper. The trick was to "scratch-up" the chrome pretty well, use self etching paint for a primer and then add your finish coat. I used 60 grit sand paper and my vibrator sander first then added 100 grit to the sanding and then finished with 320 grit paper. The self etching primer is "military green" and two coats is all that was needed to give a nice primed surface. You can see the materials used there on the left in the photo.

I already had several black McElroy bugs so I thought a change of base color would be in order. I have always liked the "hammered" finish and since I had some on hand after recoating the base of a D-104 microphone I decided to use the same paint on this base. Wow, what a pleasant surprise! You can see the base after painting there in the left photo before the parts were re-installed. It turned out beautiful and after re-mounting the chrome parts of the hole-in-the wall I was extremely pleased with



the finished product. Using "hammered tone paint is very easy and makes a beautiful finish. It would be perfect for some of those old radio cases, give it a try!

## AARC Club Gossip! .....

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

...K8UV worked T32TR using a 40m Ham Stick perched on his porch deck? Wow!  
 ...N8KR uses an old Kenwood 599 pair for his straight key contacts?  
 ...KG8CO is building an excellent 160m station?  
 ...K8AQM and KG8CO have new dual band hts? "Quansheng" is the brand.  
 ...there is an offer on the club web page for a free dual trace oscilloscope?  
 ...N8AMM is looking for good (cheap?) FT-1000MP? Good luck!  
 ...K8KIC is into fixing accordions? Ask about his 120 button project!  
 ...K8LAR and KC8ITC were impressed with the 160m signal from W8XXX but didn't work them?  
 ...K8UV has been "listening" to the 10m net?  
 ...NU8Z has been enjoying the southern sunshine for a month?  
 ...K8AQM has a beautiful new glassworks call sign in the shack window?  
 ...W8TTH was quite active in the 160m ssb contest? Norm loaded his tower guy wires!  
 ...KA8ARK has a new computer and Windows 7 is giving him fits?  
 ...W8TQE still has no hf station in operation?  
 ...W8TQE DOES have two 2 GHz computers now for the shack?  
 ...K8TLT is back from the south?  
 ...N8AMM has two new computers for his shack?  
 ...its getting lighter so maybe K8GX will come to the Adrian Chapter of "The Friends of Marconi" soon?  
 ...**General up-grade classes are now on Tuesday nights at K8AQM's shack 5:45-7:45 PM?**  
 ...N8AMM worked 150 station with his straight key/bug in this month's SKCC weekend event?  
 ...KG8CO only needs 2 more countries for 160m DXCC?  
 ...K8AA and W8TTH love their Gold Wings?

## AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio club board met at the CAP building at the Lenawee County Airport on 2-27-12. The meeting was called to order by president Jenny W8TTX at 7:00 pm with the following persons present: Jenny W8TTX, Larry W8LNR, Norm W8TTH, Bob K2IBM, Caleb KK1G, Ted K8AQM, and Bill KA8ARK. March 12, 19, 26, and possibly April 2, 7:00 PM to 9:PM were the dates set for the General class. The club is taking money for new ID badges. Dues are due. meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

The Adrian Amateur Radio club meeting was called to order at by Jenny W8TTX at 7:35 PM on 2-27 at the CAP building. Frank KD8GIY won the 50/50 drawing. Norm W8TTH motioned and Dave K8AA second the motion to accept the minutes of February meeting. The motion passed. Ted K8AQM will be holding a class for general class students March 12, 19, 26, and Possibly April 2. A Technician class will be scheduled in the Spring when some of the members return from Florida. We have a letter from Curtis Parsons Emergency Management Coordinator announcing a severe weather spotter training program which will be held at the Dominican Hall auditorium on the campus of Siena Heights University on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 beginning at 7:00 PM. The program will be presented by meteorologists from the National Weather Service and there will be no cost to attend. The program will last approximately two hours. It was announced that the Marshall Hamfest will be held March 17 with the Toledo Hamfest following on the 18th. The Dayton Hamvention will be held May 18-20. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM. Following the adjournment, Ted K8AQM showed a DVD on the DXPedition in 2008 to Desecheo Island located in the Mona Passage between Puerto Rico and Hispaniola.

Bill KA8ARK, Secretary



## W8XXX Hits the Air Waves!

Brian KG8CO has invested a lot of time and effort in building a first class station. This is especially true in his efforts on 160m. Every year the boys at N8CC, who have at the moment THE finest 160m station in the state, “whump-up” on everyone who dares challenge them in the 160m CQWW SSB Contest. Jeff N8CC, does have some outstanding beverage antennas for listening and an excellent quarter wave vertical; they “hear” and “talk” very well at N8CC. Brian has made it his mission to bring his station up to and surpass the N8CC station. This year there was a “challenge” between the boys at N8CC, who ran as “NF8J” and several of us at KG8CO running as “W8XXX”. Brian has six beverages for listening, an inverted L(TX) and an inverted V (TX) on 160m. His beverages have a preamp to correct for signal loss from long runs of RG-6 coax. The inverted L is 90 vertical and about 40 feet horizontal with a very large radial field underneath the L, the inverted V apex is at the 80 foot level. The transceiver is an FT-1000MP, the amplifier is an Alpha “three holer” running about 1400 watts. Extras at the station include a beverage directional switch and a voice keyer made by Rig Experts. You can see in the top picture N8AMM switching beverages looking for the calling station to come up out of the noise.

Operators were mainly KG8CO, N8KR and N8AMM with K8AQM filling in as needed and in the day-time running (K8AQM was the weak link). It was the first time this station was active in this contest and the first time this crew operated together. Brian and his XYL Rhonda provided plenty of food and kept the operators well fueled. W8TTH stopped by to offer his support and advice (and his chili consumption). Norm even worked us loading his tower guy wires....cool!

So how did we do and how did the NF8J gang do? Here is the breakdown for the two stations:

	<u>NF8J</u>	<u>W8XXX</u>
QSOs	1,028	943
S and P*	58	57
<u>DX</u>	12	12
Score	162,120	145,590

They beat us by 85 QS)s and one \*S and P (States and Provinces)! It was a great effort by both teams. Brian was pleased at his station efforts but is already designing improvement for next year. For a first effort we learned a lot about the station and about contesting together on phone.

As Arnold said, “I’ll be back!” so too will the W8XXX gang so beware N8CC , a new player is in the game and he’s pretty good!





## “Friends of Marconi”

Many of the amateurs in Port Huron, Michigan belong to a social group known as the “Friends of Marconi”. They meet in Port Huron on Friday afternoons at “Vantage Point” which is located at the mouth of Black River where it meets the St. Clair River. The location offers an excellent view of the river and Sarnia, Ontario. During the shipping season lake freighters pass by along with pleasure craft.

The group in this picture includes several ops who have visited and operated in our area, Ray N8RAY at the head of the table on the left, Stan AC8W to Ray’s right and across the table in the black hat is Bruce N5ASU, all have operated here in Adrian.

The “Friends of Marconi” (*new name for our Monday night group; “Friends of Marconi Adrian Chapter”*) is very similar to our Monday night get together where the topics “usually” drift from amateur radio to “whatever”. Seems that amateurs all over enjoy “rag chewing” on many topics.

## A Visit to K8LAR, Blair West

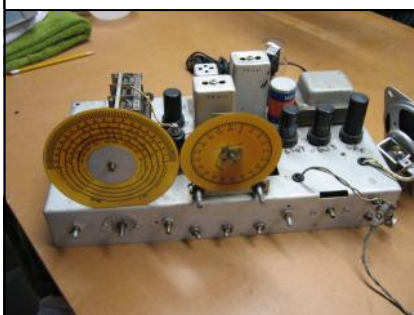
K8LAR Blair (Bud) West lives in Saline, MI and hangs around with those “unscrupulous” characters on 10m CW, K8KIC, KC8ITC and K8AQM. Bud joins us for cw whenever he can and has a very FB fist (he says a QLF fist ... “Are you sending with your left foot?”). In addition to being a fine cw operator



Bud is into the restoration of older tube gear. I paid Bud a visit and got to see his latest project, a Hallicrafters S-20 R made between 1939 and 1945. It sold for \$49.50 and covered 540 KHz– 44 MHz in four bands.

Bud has cleaned the chassis, the entire inside of the radio, re-strung the dial and is now working on replacement of the speaker and several capacitors. The radio works very well as it is but Bud is making sure it will continue to work for another sixty years. Below is a picture of the radio and you can see the side trim pieces. Bud is looking for those side trim pieces and would appreciate anyone with a lead where he might locate them.

On the right side is a picture of Bud’s very modern station. He has a three element 10m yagi in his attic and a 40-10m Hustler vertical off his deck which actually goes through the deck and below to the lower level!



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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

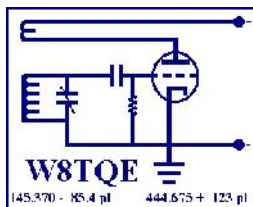
W8TQE 145.370 - 85.4 pl Adrian, Michigan  
W8TQE 444.675 + 123 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM 443.375 + 107.2 pl Adrian, Michigan  
K8ADM has access to Echo Link

### Adrian ARC 37th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September 16, 2012  
Hamfest Chair  
Mark NU8Z@comcast.net

### AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

[www.w8tqe.com](http://www.w8tqe.com)  
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**First Class**