W8TQE
145.370 - 85.4 pl 444.675 + 123 pl

The Tickler

Volume 43, Issue 11 November, 2014

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone. Unfortunately winter is here already and the snow along with it. I really hate winter, but then I live in the wrong state to dream about not having to drive on nasty snowy icy roads. Anyway I hope your year has gone well. I know it sure has gone too quickly. The older I get the faster each year goes by me.

We had a good time at the After Hamfest Potluck we had before the meeting last month, but I do wish I would have seen more of you there.

Norm W8TTH and I were not able to go to the Fort Wayne Hamfest this year, but I hear it was a lot smaller than last year. Hopefully next year it will be a bigger show when we do get to go.

Last month I was once again elected as your President thanks to the members that were at the meeting. Our Board member nomination was also held last month and four members were nominated, so there will be an election at this month's meeting as we only need to elect three. The nominees are: Bill KD8TTM, Jeremy KD8VSQ, Larry W8LNR, and Norm W8TTH.

The Thanksgiving Holiday is almost here. If I don't see you at the meeting, I hope you all have a great holiday and show thanks for all you have received. Share the time you have with your friends and family.

Don't forget to check out the website at www.w8tqe.com and get any your information and pictures to Bob K2IBM. He is our web master and we need to support him. Also, don't forget to send Jeremy KD8VSQ articles for The Tickler. He also needs our support. Thanks to them both for the great job they are doing for all of us.

73s
Ginny W8TTX

Monthly Meeting Reminder
This month there will be a presentation from Ted K8AQM on Fiji 3D2. So make plans to come to the meeting and take part in this great presentation. Meeting Starts 7:30 pm with presentation around 8:30 pm.

3D2

A Florida QTH

Ken N8KR sent this great pic up of his Florida QTH.

Ken Writes:

Hey! Here's the current operating spot in the storage shed next to our place. Just finished phone sweepstakes with 850 qso's. Missed a sweep like many looking for a non-existent VE2 and Rhode Island! 20 was my bread and butter band and had some nice runs. (Operated about 15 hours) I like the southern propagation but missed the higher and better antennas. Just have the 20 and 40 di-poles at 30 feet. Ran the THP at 400 watts. Home made foot switch on the floor. Screwed two boards together with a fulcrum in the middle. Worked flawlessly!

I picked up an artificial ground in that estate I purchased last week. Finding a good ground down here in a park full of old aluminum trailers and much rust is difficult. I was turning on and off lights and causing my Ipad and phone problems so I tried the artificial ground and eliminated all problems. I think it may be a good solution for operating in this environment. May be a good item to have around for our little trips.

Ken also mention that Tuesday and Wednesday that there was going to be a cold spell there in Florida. Hope Ken doesn't get the snow like we have been getting, to think last year we had severe weather during this part of the season!

OPERATING TIP

Please copy? Please don't! Imagine this pre-Sweepstakes conversation as Elmer prepares to hand off the controls to his protégée:

"OK, when the clock rolls over to 2100 UTC..."

"I know - call CQ, right?"

"No, I want you to say "please copy" 500 times in a row."

"What???!!!"

"You might as well get it out of your system. Follow it with another 500 of "You are" and 110 leading zeroes. Then you can call CQ."

"But that will take a half hour!"

"Sure will...but you were going to say it anyway!"

Unnecessary verbiage slows everything down, whether it's a contest or an emergency communication net. Try to eliminate it from your on the air transmissions. Write down a script to help you say only what you need to say. The editor fesses up to having a weakness for adding in an extra "Thanks" at the beginning of a QSO when one at the end is plenty.

Although this is Sweepstakes based it equally applies to all contests or any activity where "rate" is desired.
Ted

W1WOW /QRP /Deer Blind Portable

With this being November and hunting season, most people get their gear ready and head out opening morning and sit in their deer blind and wait for the deer. Then there are some people who take deer hunting to a whole new level.

Jason W1WOW takes his normal hunting gear with him but also takes along his radio. His "Deer Blind Portable" station. Jason's Station consists of an ICOM IC-703+, his back pack an ICOM LC-156, and an ICOM AH-703 multi band vertical whip that connects right to the radio. Everything came be worn on his back for on the go QRP operation.

While Jason is his the blind he operates on 20m with a dipole strung up between the trees above his blind with center point right above his blind. While watching for the deer he operates on PSK-31 primarily, but does work some SSB when it gets too cold and the IPad comes to a halt and tells you its too cold to work and shuts down.

This is where I (Jeremy KD8VSQ) heard Jason making some contacts at 14.214 MHz as W1WOW/QRP/Deer Blind Portable. Since it was out of the general band I couldn't make a contact with him so I decided to email him with a signal report. He was making it from the U.P. with 5 watts to my antenna with a strong +10 over s9 on my radio and had excellent audio for being in a deer blind with snow up to his knees!

Jason and I talked about deer hunting and what the season has been like, but I could never be on when he was on SSB to make a contact with him be cause of other obligations. Hopefully in the near future I will be able to schedule a time we can get that QRP contact in the log book. Until then Jason try to stay warm up there in Sidnaw, Michigan. Man that's cold BRRRRGH!

Jason sent me a video also of him calling CQ while in his blind which I linked to our clubs Facebook page. It shows how cold it was out side in Sidnaw, grid number EN56pm. You can also see more of Jason's great pics from his station on qrz.com

Thanks Jason for letting me chat with you about radio and deer hunting hope to get you in the logbook soon!

New Rotor on NU8Z's Quad

Mark, NU8Z "had" bad knees and couldn't climb. Of course that's when his ancient HD-73 rotor decided not to tell him which direction his antenna was pointing in! Before getting his knees replaced (and that means his tower climbing days are at an end), Mark bought a new rotor and asked for some assistance from his friends; Brian KG8CO, Don N8AMM and Ted K8AQM to the rescue! Finding a day , time and weather that would work for everyone took a bit of time but finally all parameters worked out and the rotor replacement took place.

Beginning about 10:00AM the project was completed just shortly after noon. That's Don N8AMM at the top with Brian KG8CO at the rotor while Ted K8AQM ran the ground work hoisting the tool bucket and the new rotor. The most difficult part of the project was just climbing the tower and keeping your feet from killing you! The tower is a free standing forty foot HBX tower and that means "X" bracing rather than the flat steps of Rohn tower...ouch! Your ankles are flexed inwards or outward but never just flat across. After two hours you wonder if you'll be ever walking normal again!

The wind was blowing but never was a problem with the surrounding trees and houses breaking the gusts up. After the job Mark's wife Sheri had prepared a wonderful lunch with a side plate of fruit and coffee or milk.

Oh yes, the rotor works perfectly and Mark now knows where his RF is headed!

Dear Adrian ARC, We received the winning plaque for our category (multi-multi) recently in the Michigan QSO Party. I want to thank all the members of your club for sponsoring this fine award. We at the MSU ARC will have it on display proudly in the W8SH shack. TU agn fer ur fb award. 73 , Gregg Mulder WB8LZG

Japanese Key circa 1925

Rich K8UV sent this picture of a key that was purchased from an estate auction in Estes Ohio. Odd is the way the cord is located, on the front of the key? The base is made from teak, a very popular wood in the far east and a nice dense grain wood at that. Rich also said that on the brass arm are the words Isama ISOzaki. Assuming this is either one who made it or owned and used it.

Thanks Rich for the great radio articles!

KG8CO DX CENTRAL

Think Brian has been holding out on us? If you're in need of DX then KG8CO S DX CENTRAL is the place to go. All the DX you will ever need in one easy location. Work the world all over again. Get in on the 160m octopus!

THE LADIES ARE COMING

QST Editorial August 1917 Edition

When amateur wireless opens up again in these United States of America, things are going to be different. There will be several hundred of the fair sex scattered around among us. This means that we shall have to introduce several changes. We shall have to be careful where we use OM. What will take its place is not yet apparent. It will not be OW, from what we have heard from various young ladies. They do not take kindly to being referred to semi-affectionately as Old Woman. Some of them will let Old Lady pass, although there are others who object even to this. We would not venture to make a suggestion in such a delicate matter, but just the same, we fully expect to hear DG. This will sound pretty chummy, but in wireless where you cannot see the other person, and where you never expect that you will see them, and where formalities are more of a dead letter than in anything else we know of, it might be that calling an unknown young lady dear girl, might be taken all right.

Language will have to be improved a little because, "keep out, you big Ham," will not be exactly polite when the ladies are around. We never have had much profanity in the air, so this will go as it is, but we fully expect to see a general uplift throughout the fraternity when the ladies join us. Here's to them, and it gives us great pleasure to extend the glad hand of the fellowship when the happy day comes, and we all re-open.

Before the term "YL" which of course stands for Young Lady. And then of course a married girl would later become a "XYL" Self-explanatory. In the text "OW" would mean "old woman" which of course would never do and "DG" would mean Dear Girl". Mind you in 1917 it was 100% CW no phone in those days.

FYI de Rich K8UV

The KJ5VW 20 Meter Mini Yagi

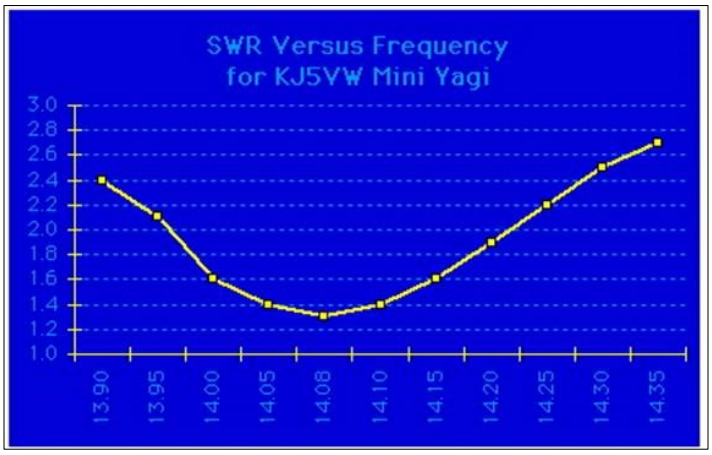
Gary R. Hanson, KJ5VW

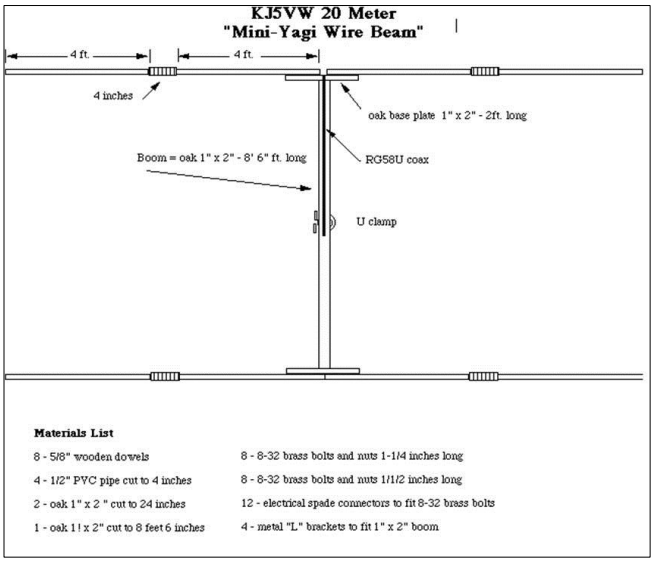
Austin, Texas

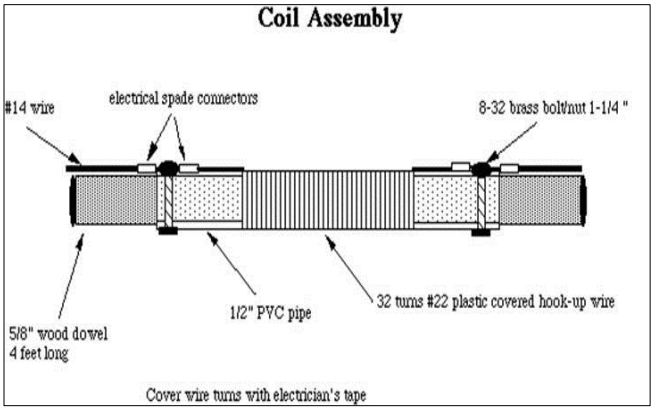
Imitation, it is said, is the sincerest form of flattery so let me begin by pointing to the direct source of my inspiration for building this antenna. I first got the idea for a "mini" antenna from Frank, G3YCC's article in the QRPp quarterly, June, 1996. He described a "mini" dipole for 20 meters made from aluminum tubing with mid-element inductive loading coils. It was short, could be rotated, was easy to construct, and best of all -- it was inexpensive. I built it and it worked marvelously well. I received many fine signal reports, but that only started me thinking that if a dipole worked this well, wouldn't a two-element beam work even better? About the same time, I started surfing the Internet and began reading numerous posts from L. E. Cebik about wire beams on the QRP-L listserv and his web page. I learned enough about driven elements, directors and reflectors, boom length, gain and front/back ratios to start experimenting on my own.

Why not take the "mini-dipole" idea from Frank, add some of the ideas about wire beam ideas from W.L. Cebik and combine the two? I wanted to make a light, portable antenna that I could easily transport from my house, to a field operation, to the beach and maybe even lash to the top of my sailboat mast. And it had to fit in the trunk of my car! The latter criterion placed some pretty severe constraints on my plans. Did I mention it had to be inexpensive as well?

What I ended up with was a two-element mini-yagi that weighed less then 15 pounds, cost less than $30 dollars, could be disassembled into four-foot lengths, stored in the trunk of my car, and could be assembled in less than a half hour. Here's how I did it.







Ted K8AQM is in the process of building one of these beams for permeant use on one of his towers! If your interested in knowing more about this antenna ask Ted or check out the link below for the full article on the KJ5VW 20 Meter Mini Yagi.
http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~hansongr/Miniyagi.htm

Comanche, Mohawks and Chippewa – Oh My!

These days, most Amateur Radio gear is identified with nothing more interesting than simple alpha-numeric designations like a Kenwood TS-570, Icom IC-7410, or Elecraft K3, but the naming landscape was far more colorful and romantic back in the day.
Heathkit chose the Native American to anchor their Amateur Radio product line

Heathkit, for example, chose to celebrate Native Americans with a variety of offerings for the Amateur market. Among those were the Apache transmitter and matching Mohawk receiver, the Cheyenne transmitter with the companion Comanche receiver, and a nifty little general coverage receiver called the Mohican. And it didn't stop there either. The Heathkit 6 Meter transmitter was named the Shawnee, and it's rhyming 2 Meter cousin was the Pawnee.

Continuing the theme were Heathkit Kilowatt amplifiers Warrior and Chippewa. And the VHF offering of the day was the Seneca. I have no clear explanation for the interesting Native American naming convention used by the former manufacturer from Benton Harbor, but I always enjoyed hearing those names on the air as a station would describe his rig. I was a youngster back then, and the mention of an Apache or Comanche always triggered thoughts of Roy and Trigger, or Hopalong and Gene, and a scene from a western would often play out while I vicariously rode the range while riding the airwaves.

And Heath didn't hold a monopoly on creative license back then either, not by a long shot. The Hallicrafters company made a short-lived line of high-powered transceivers which paid homage to the weather. These included the ~~Cyclone~~, ~~Tornado~~ and ~~Hurricane~~. The latter of these may be the only 2 KW transceiver ever produced.

Continued on Page 9

The Clegg Company, out of New Jersey, was a big player in VHF gear throughout the 60s and chose names that were literally out of this world. Imagine hearing something like this on a 6 Meter roundtable during the day. "Your Thor 6 is really punching through today, Old Man, I'm running a brand new Venus here". "Your turn, Bob, and let us know how we're sounding on that new Interceptor receiver of yours". No, I'm not making this up. And heaven knows what Clegg was thinking when they named their 6M/2M transceiver the Climaster Zeus.

The E.F. Johnson Company is another that obviously had a host of wacky creative talent in the product naming division during the 50s and 60s. I had the pleasure of cutting my teeth in Amateur Radio on a Johnson Viking Adventurer. Other wonderfully named gear from this pioneering company included the Viking Invader, Viking Ranger, Viking Valiant, Viking Challenger and the Viking Pacemaker.

Lafayette Radio had their Voyager transmitter, Swan Radio had the Astro and Cygnet transceivers, and Gonset offered the Commander, Communicator and Sidewinder to the Ham market.
And no conversation about the nostalgic names of gear from yesteryear would be complete without including the many fabulous offerings from the Ten-Tec arsenal of Amateur products.

The extensive Ten-Tec product line has included, or still includes, the Argonaut, Argosy, Century 21, Corsair, Delta, Eagle, Jupiter, Omni, Orion, Paragon, Pegasus, Rebel, Scout and Triton. And to their credit, Ten-Tec maintains a warm and friendly naming convention even to this day for many of their products, perhaps the sole practitioner of a practice that is quickly fading into the noise.

I get it that all things change. Change, in fact, is the one great constant of our Universe. But I still have a warm spot in my heart for all the wonderful names of the past. And lucky for me these names aren't loss to the historians either. All I have to do is crank out a CQ on 40 Meters most any evening, and then sit back and listen as the Apaches, Mohawks and Chippewas come back from the ether.

Hi Ho Silver!

73 es de
Bill WA4FAT

You know what a L I D is?

Well, it's a poor operator.

I hate L I D s and see these guys to my right?

They hate L I D s too.

Shape up or ship out.

You got the picture?

Good!

Via Rich K8UV

Can you guess the movie? Answer in Next months Tickler!

AARC Club Gossip! .....

Did you know that…

....K8AQM's station as W1AW/8 made over 1900 QSOs?
...Don KD8SKO has a new J-38 straight key?
...rumor has it KD8TTM entered the SKCC CW Sprint last month?
...Ruben KD8ZMS has a 8ft 2 meter antenna!
…Ken K8KIC will have HIS Lazy Boy recliner electrified and hooked to the doorbell?
…Where did Brian KG8CO get all the sheep from?
… Mark NU8Z had both knees replaced 2 days apart and "loves" his therapy!
...Ted K8AQM, Don N8AMM, Brian KG8CO replaced rotor on Mark's NU8Z back tower so his quad will now rotate better.
...Ken K8KIC over dosed on football again and was glad to find out the Spartans won but sad the Lions lost
...Ginny W8TTX had her birthday Friday and got to play in the mud on the last trip of the year to Buckley.
...Bob K2IBM upgraded his cell phone and is lost as to what all the programs do. Did he get glSDR install?
...Stan N8PJP got his trenching all done and is ready to put up antennas!
...Ted K8AQM upgraded to Windows 7 and doesn't like it! Give me back XP PLEASE!
...Bill KD8TTM's Kenwood TM-v7 is back alive and belting out the radio waves on the 2m.
...Cletus K8TLT is now appointed the EC of Lenawee County?
...K8AQM now has "three" SKCC brass straight keys?
...Jeremy KD8VSQ "may" be putting up a tribander very soon?
...KG8CO has over 150 countries worked on 160m?
...K8KIC has become hard to find on 2m anymore?
...KD8VSQ worked over 100 station in the SS SSB Contest last weekend?
...WE8Z has lost so many quarters playing cards with K8KIC he is worried about his gas money for Florida
...KD8TTM worked over 50 stations the SS SSB Contest?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club board met with the entire membership at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport on October 27, 2014. The meeting was called to order by President Ginny W8TTX after a meal of Hotdogs, Sloppy Joes, salad and dessert was served. Brian Stahl won the 50/50 drawing. There was 25 members present. The September minutes were accepted with a motion by Bill KD8TTM, second by Alan N8TIB and a voice vote. Mark NU8Z was not present due to his recent hospitalization, however the financial statement which was read by President Ginny W8TTX showed a balance of $5,721.22 and was accepted with a motion by Bruce KB8DIL, second by Norm W8TTH and a voice vote. The recent passing of Joe K8YZA was noted and a number of positive comments about the way Joe did his job, as the clubs emergency coordinator, were made by several members. The district emergency coordinator is expected to appoint Joe K8YZA's replacement shortly. Ginny W8TTX was elected club President for another term. Club members nominated to be elected at the next meeting were Larry W8LNR, Bill KD8TTM, Norm W8TTH and Jeremy KD8VSQ. A motion was made by Ted K8AQM second by Don N8AMM to close the nominations. Next meeting we will vote for three members for the board. (Ted K8AQM also did an excellent presentation on Tonga A35 DXpedition. (edit by KD8VSQ))

Secretary Bill KA8ARK.

CQ CQ CQ CALLING ALL MEMBERS

We need your help!

The Tickler is in need of articles to put into publication.
We want your input to help us produce the Tickler.

If you have any interesting topics, tips, stories that you find interesting write up a short story and let us know. If you have pictures either electronic or hardcopy, if your article is handwritten or email we want to know what's on your mind.

If you have submissions for the Tickler please contact Jeremy KD8VSQ and it will be included in the next months issue of the tickler.

Find us on: facebook

Join us on Facebook! The club has a new place to share and keep up to date with what's going on inside the club. So get on and search for Adrian Amateur Radio Club or W8TQE on Facebook and click the "Like" button and what ever we post will be shared instantly with all club members. The W8TQE Page on Facebook can be found also by typing in the following URL : http://www.facebook.com/w8tqe

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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 8:00 p.m. The ARES Net on 145.370 - Bill, KD8TTM -Net Control
Tuesday and Thursday 10 Meter CW Chat at 8:00 p.m. on 28.050 +/- QRM
Tuesday and Thursday 10 Meter SSB Chat 9:00 p.m. on 28.328 +/-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 14, 2014
Hamfest Chair
Mark NU8Z@comcast.net

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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