Volume 43, Issue 9 September, 2014

W8TQE
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The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hello everyone. Had you have had a great summer. It has gone by so fast.

As all of you should know our Adrian Amateur Radio Club Hamfest was held this month. We had a pretty good crowd of people attend this year and the weather was great. It wasn't too hot or too cold. It was just right. I would like to thank all of you that showed up to help out this year and I would like to especially thank Mark NU8Z for the great job he did organizing everything again this year. I haven't heard the final tally from the hamfest yet, but hopefully we did well.

I have some Sloppy Joe meat and hot dogs left from the hamfest and we will plan a dinner for our meeting in October to use it all up. More information will be available on our website after this month's meeting. I didn't get the information out early enough to have it this month.

The Findlay hamfest was again the week right before our hamfest (which it will always be(and it was also a great show. The event was moved to a different building at the opposite end of the fairgrounds from where it is normally located. It is a nicer building and Norm W8TTH and I were once again inside. The weather was also great for their hamfest. There were a lot of people at the show with a lot of vendors and trunk sales. I saw of few of you there, but would have liked to have seen more.

The Kalamazoo, Michigan Hamfest is going to be held on October 19th. Norm and I will not be attending this year as we once again have other things going on. If you get a chance to go, it is usually a good hamfest.

Last month's Ice Cream Social/meeting was held at the CAP building. We had a short meeting and then enjoyed ourselves. I would like to thank Neil KC8DAR for picking up the ice cream again this year. If you didn't attend the event, you missed out on a good time with good friends.

I would like to thank Jeremy KD8VSQ for taking over publishing our newsletter. Ted K8AQM is once again off on a Dxpedition and I am sure he has been having a great time.

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 to send Jeremy KD8VSQ articles and things for him to use in The Tickler. He also needs our support. Thanks to them both for the great job they are doing for all of us.

The meeting this month will be September 29th. Hope to see you there.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

Amateur Radio and The American Red Cross: A Successful Combination During the Toledo Water Crisis

By Bob, K2IBM

My wife Gretchen, N8DQX, and I have been active with the American Red Cross since our retirement from our clinical psychology practice at the end of 2011. We were recruited by the Michigan Psychological Association to take some classes and become Disaster Mental Health workers. We also took some classes to prepare us to know all of the proper uses of the Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) in case we were included with an ERV team to provide mental health services along with food, cleaning supplies, Etc.

I had a couple of opportunities to drive the ERV during drills, and I quickly found that it was not easy to get a three ton diesel truck exactly where it needs to go. In fact, there were instances when I wasn't sure it was going to stay between the white lines while negotiating RT 75 at 70 miles per hour. In addition to driving, I was trying to keep track of navigation and communication. Before I knew it, I had blown by my exit. Not good!

Just as I was becoming somewhat comfortable driving the ERV the Toledo Water Disaster hit. This was declared a national emergency by the Red Cross and there was a great need for ERV drivers to haul bottled water. There were about 14 ERVs brought in from all of the surrounding areas, as far away as West Virginia. The Washtenaw-Lenawee chapter moved its ERV down to the Monroe Chapter. Gretchen and I volunteered to drive it since many of the surrounding towns got their water from the Toledo Water Treatment Plant. It was a pretty standard ERV job. Pickup half a ton of bottled water from some storage facility and deliver it out where it was needed.

There was one big difference, however. Every ERV crew out of the Monroe chapter had an Amateur Radio Operator on board from the Monroe Amateur Radio Club. These operators handled all of the communication—no messing with cell phones that could hardly be heard over the roar and clatter of the diesel engine. Not only did they handle the communication, they knew the local area so that we did not have to stop and deal with the GPS.

The operators used tactical call signs, we were EV2, and the Chapter Headquarters was Central. Their own amateur call was given at the beginning and the end of the series of transmissions. Their communication protocol was as good as any professional radio operation that I have heard. It was quite a personal experience for me to be on the other end of receiving communication services from amateur radio. I am happy to report that with their assistance, there were no blown stop signs and the ERV was returned to the Chapter with its fenders intact.

There may be a lesson here for amateur radio public service. In addition to our role as the communication method of last resort, maybe we should also be looking at how we can provide needed public service communication to agencies that are doing the work after the disaster has struck. The Monroe Command Center made the decision that the best use of amateur radio was to assist the Red Cross in this disaster. The Monroe radio amateurs providing communication services freed up this somewhat inexperienced ERV driver to pay attention to the road and we were able to deliver the needed water in a much safer way.

Tonga and Fiji DXpedition

Ted K8AQM reports that the DXpedition to Tonga went well and they have had a lot of fun working DX from the islands! While on Tonga, Ted reports that the group made over 5000 QSOs. That's some great DXing for running only 100 watts! Ted also sent some great pics the QTH while on Tonga and Fiji.

Looks like they had a great time on Tonga! Their calls were

Below pictures are from Fiji. Lisa the 3d2 cook made a wonderful meal for the guys which includes kasva chips, oysters, tuna, rice, spinach soup and garlic toast. Also pictured below is Lee 3D2LJ Running the pileup. The pileup was heard by Jeremy KD8VSQ and Ken K8KIC. Brian 3D2CO relaxing with a Fiji Bitters Beer. The antenna to the left is being place in the ocean. Ted says it works great especially at high tide. And of course a double rainbow helps DX too!

The two week total is 14,939 QSOs and 105 different counties. We worked 9,211 unique calls so A LOT of band countries were filled. 11% of our QSOs (1,702) were SSB.

Whiskey 4 Marines

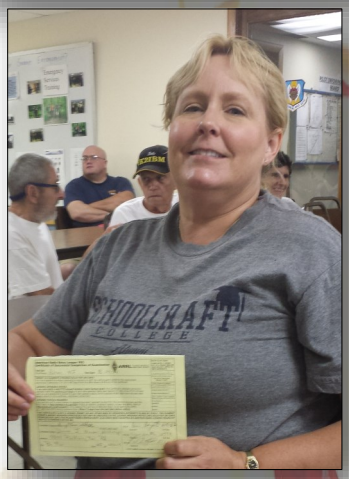
Bill had a great time in Frogmore South Carolina! Although he only made a couple contacts during the W4M event, he really enjoyed the Marine reunion and reminiscing about memories of protecting our country with old and new friends!

Bill did find out however that his Coleman cooler caused a lot of noise while it was operating. When he unplugged it the noise was gone.

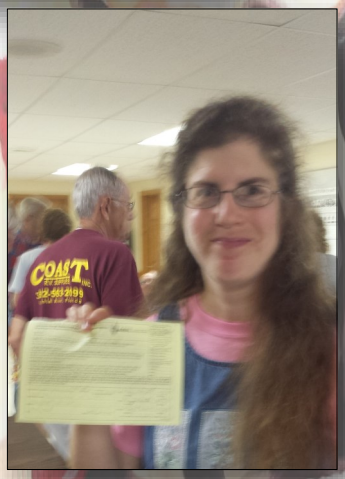
Bill made it home in time to make it to the Monday night eye ball session. He even brought a tag along from South Carolina. Some Spanish Moss decided to hang on to his guy wires for his 40m ham stick on top his car. To think it made it all the way to Michigan!

2014 Ice Cream Social

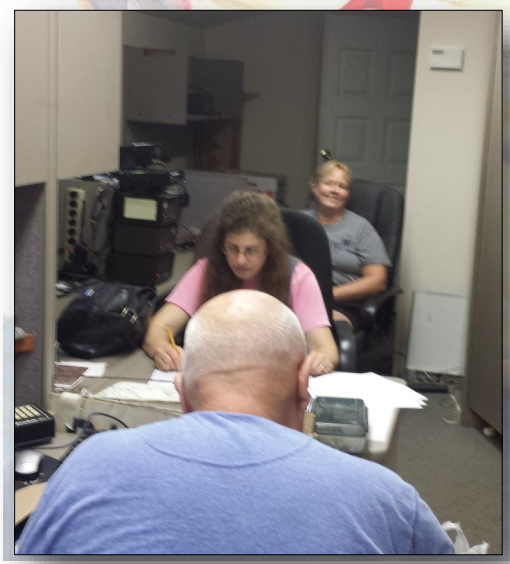
The 2014 Ice Cream Social was held at the club house this year on August 25. There was a great turn out. Three gallons of vanilla ice cream and enough toppings that it took you a few minutes to decide what combination you was going to have. The end of the month Monday get club meeting was held for a few minutes prior to digging into the sweet stuff but we got through it and everyone quenched their sweet tooth!
Still don't know why Mark NU8Z had that "Oh no you caught me!" look while he was loading up his ice cream bowl.



Donna - KD8ZKD



Cassandra - KD8ZKC

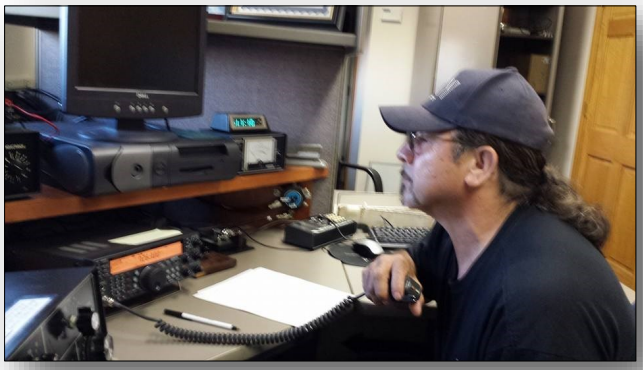


During the ice cream social the VEs were administering a couple of technician exams. Donna and Cassandra both passed their exams and earned the call signs of KD8ZKD and KD8ZKC. Congrats to Donna KD8ZKD (no more D-O-N-N-A!) and Cassandra KD8ZKC. Hope to hear you both on the air soon!

Many Thanks goes out to the VEs that were on hand to help with the testing.

With that I will ask that if anyone is interested in becoming a VE to help with testing and getting soon to be hams their new calls, get online and get the manual and test. Its an open book test and will allow you to become a VE to help out at upcoming testing sessions.

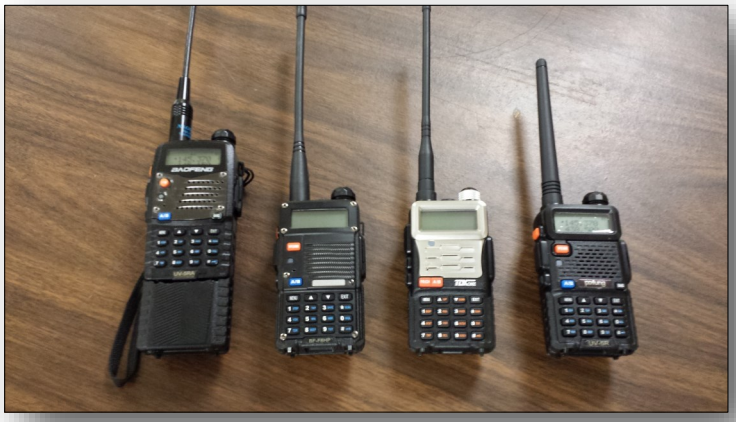
Any questions becoming a VE email the editor and we will get you started in the right direction!



The September 8th Monday night eyeball session netted a few QSOs for W8TQE. With the stations up and operating, Ruben KD8YUI made his 1st QSOs on 40m to W4F the North Carolina Mountain State Fair event station and W6P Route 66 On-The-Air event station from St. Louis Missouri!

Great Job Ruben! Now you got your feet wet in HF your sure to be getting a new rig soon!

Battle of the Baofeng, Pofung, and TDXone Handie Talkies



There is some great affordable HTs on the market now. Monday night brought together 4 of them. Bill KD8TTM's Baofeng UV-5RA, Jeremy KD8VSQ's Baofeng BF-F8HP, Ruben KD8YUI's TDXone, and Ken K8KIC's Pofung UV-5R.

There isn't much of a difference in most of the Baofeng models with the exception of the BF-F8HP it is a UV-5R with eight watts instead of the normal five watts. The TDXone is only four watts.

Baofeng is currently in the process of branding all of its current USA models to Pofung as seen on Ken's UV-5R. The Baofengs also have the same menu system for programming the radio. This is quite difficult as there are many steps to setting up a repeater frequency into it and saving it to memory. It can be done by hand but the easiest way is to purchase the programming/cloning cable for a couple bucks and using a program called CHIRP. Its and easy program once you get the drivers for the cable installed and the program setup then all you have to do is plug in numbers and upload the set to the radio. CHIRP will also let you change the functions of the radio instead of going through the menus.

All these radios can be found all over the internet for as cheap as 20 to 30 bucks to as much as 80 to 100 bucks. Make sure if you are interested in one of these HTs you shop around for the cheapest price. Of course you can always score a deal at your local ham show too!

Adrian Amateur Radio Club

Adrian, Michigan

42nd Annual Hamfest

The 2014 AARC 42nd Hamfest and Computer Show has done and gone and is now time to begin thinking about next years show! A Big thanks goes out to all who helped and made the show a success!

Even though the turn out was down from last year and our main vendor canceled at the last minute due to mother nature giving us an excess amount of rain in some areas, the club still made a profit after expenses were taken care of!

A big thanks goes out to Mike's GPS Sales! He donated a APRS kit that included a Garmin 350 GPS worth $150!!!

AARC Club Gossip! .....

Did you know that…

Stan N8PJP upgraded to EXTRA!!!! Grats Stan!

Ruben KD8YUI upgraded to GENERAL!!!! WTG Ruben

Ted K8AQM/KH6 was heard in the W8TQE shack!

Ken K8KIC has a new HT.

Jeremy KD8VSQ can hear better now since he got a Heath Kit speaker!

Bill KD8TTM got a steal of a deal on a antenna analyzer!

Will Donna KD8ZKD upgrade to General in October?

How many QSOs did Don KD8SKO make with the MM-3 Morse Machine.

Will Jeremy KD8VSQ upgrade to Extra in October?

Did Brian KG8CO get his Ten Tec Eagle fixed? Can you call the fix a Ten-Technical Tap?

How many antennas has Bill KD8TTM tuned since he got his MFJ analyzer?

AARC Club Minutes

The following are the club minutes for August 25, 2014: The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Board met at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport on August 25, 2014. The meeting was called to order by President Ginny W8TTX at 7:00 PM with the following persons present. Ginny W8TTX, Norm W8TTH, Bob K2IBM, Neil KC8DAR, and Bill KA8ARK. The board discussed the upcoming hamfest and was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport on August 25, 2014 following the board meeting. The meeting was called to order by Ginny W8TTX with 26 people present. The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Ruben KD8YUI. The minutes of the July 2014 were approved as published in the Tickler by a voice vote and a motion by Bruce KB8DIL second by Neil KC8DAR. The treasurer's report by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of $3,523.60 (The balance being low because of seed money for hamfest being distributed to chair persons) and was approved by voice vote, and a motion by Norm W8TTH second by Bob KB8HW. Joe K8YZA reported that a meeting of the Emergency Operations Preparedness Committee will be held at Siena Heights University on September 20, 2014. Two new Technicians (Donna and Cassandra). were introduced as having just passed their Tests. Call Signs to come later. The meeting was adjourned AT 8:34 pm for the most pleasant purpose of the evening (THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL) 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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