Volume 43, Issue 10 October, 2014

W8TQE

145.370 - 85.4 pl 444.675 + 123 pl

The Tickler

From the Prez.....

Hope everyone is doing well and will be able to attend the meeting this month. We are going to have a small potluck which will start at 7:00 p.m. before the meeting. I will be bringing the leftovers from our hamfest to the meeting. The main courses will be Sloppy Joes and hot dogs until they are gone. Please bring a dish to pass and your appetite. We will have plates, utensils, condiments, water, and pop.

It was very sad to hear about Joe Pullen's (K8YZA's) passing. I attended his visitation and his funeral. By attending them both I learned a lot about Joe that I did and didn't know. He was a wonderful teacher and friend to a lot of people. He never met a stranger and he had a big heart and helped wherever he was able to help. At the funeral we were offered a chance to tell stories of how we all knew Joe and it was nice to see several of his students get up and speak about all their adventures with Joe whether they occurred during school or during hiking trips and/or canoeing trips. It was neat to hear that Joe even started a Ham Radio Club at the Adrian High School while he was there. There were many nice things mentioned about Joe, but one of the things that sticks in my mind the most was something one of his brother-in-laws said. He said that he had once asked Joe why he didn't go on with his education and get his PHD instead of choosing to be a teacher. Joe told him that he could benefit more people by influencing his student's careers by showing them the importance of science and biology. I met several of his students who had done just that. They stated that Joe was the one that most influenced their career choices and most had become doctors, biologists, or worked in other scientific fields. Joe certainly accomplished what he intended. One of his past students even came from as far away as California to attend his funeral. He was obvious he was loved and will be missed by all.

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. Also, don't forget to pay your dues as you will need to be a paid member to vote in December.

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 our newsletter co-editors, Ted K8AQM and Jeremy KD8VSQ. They need our support by giving them articles and pictures. All three of these fellas do a great job for all of us.

Don't forget to check in on the Sunday night 8 o'clock 2 meter net on the Adrian repeater (145.370). Bill KD8TTM has been doing a spectacular job keeping the net going every week.

The meeting this month will be October 27th. Hope to see you all there.

73 Ginny W8TTX

Tonga A35 DXpedition Presentation
At the Club Meeting
Monday October 27, 2014

W1AW/8 Michigan from K8AQM's Shack

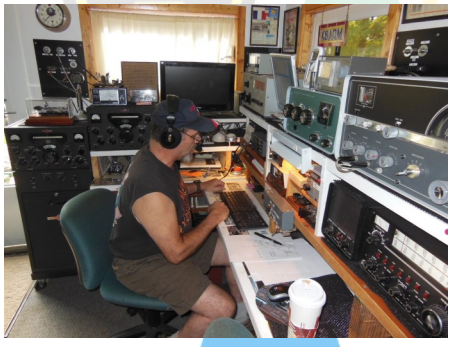
For a few days in October W1AW/8 Michigan came to Ted K8AQM's Shack. He had lots of help making QSOs for the ARRL 100th Anniversary QSO party. Bill KD8TTM, Don KD8SKO, Jeremy KD8VSQ, Ken K8KIC, Ken N8KR with a special appearance by Bob KB8HW everyone had a good time making QSOs and chatting.

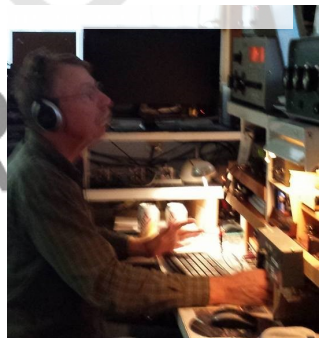
Thursday and Saturday Bill and Jeremy operated P P P Phone. Bill was on 17m and Jeremy was on 40m, Bill was rocking the mic and 40m was "Nothing Heard." Saturday again Bill was on 17m and was doing really well for calling CQ the entire time slot. Jeremy was on 15m and it was barely open. Jeremy says its no fun when your not making contacts! Ken K8KIC was on 30m for CW and he could barley make out any calls with the pileup he had! He made a recording of it which was later put up on the clubs Facebook page its worth a listen.

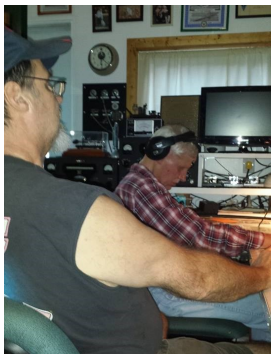
Saturday Afternoon Ken N8KR and Ted operated on CW and they both did really well. There was a sort of competition between them to see who had the most contacts of course Ken beat out Ted by only a few. At the end of Saturday there was just over 1800 contacts made for the W1AW/8 call.

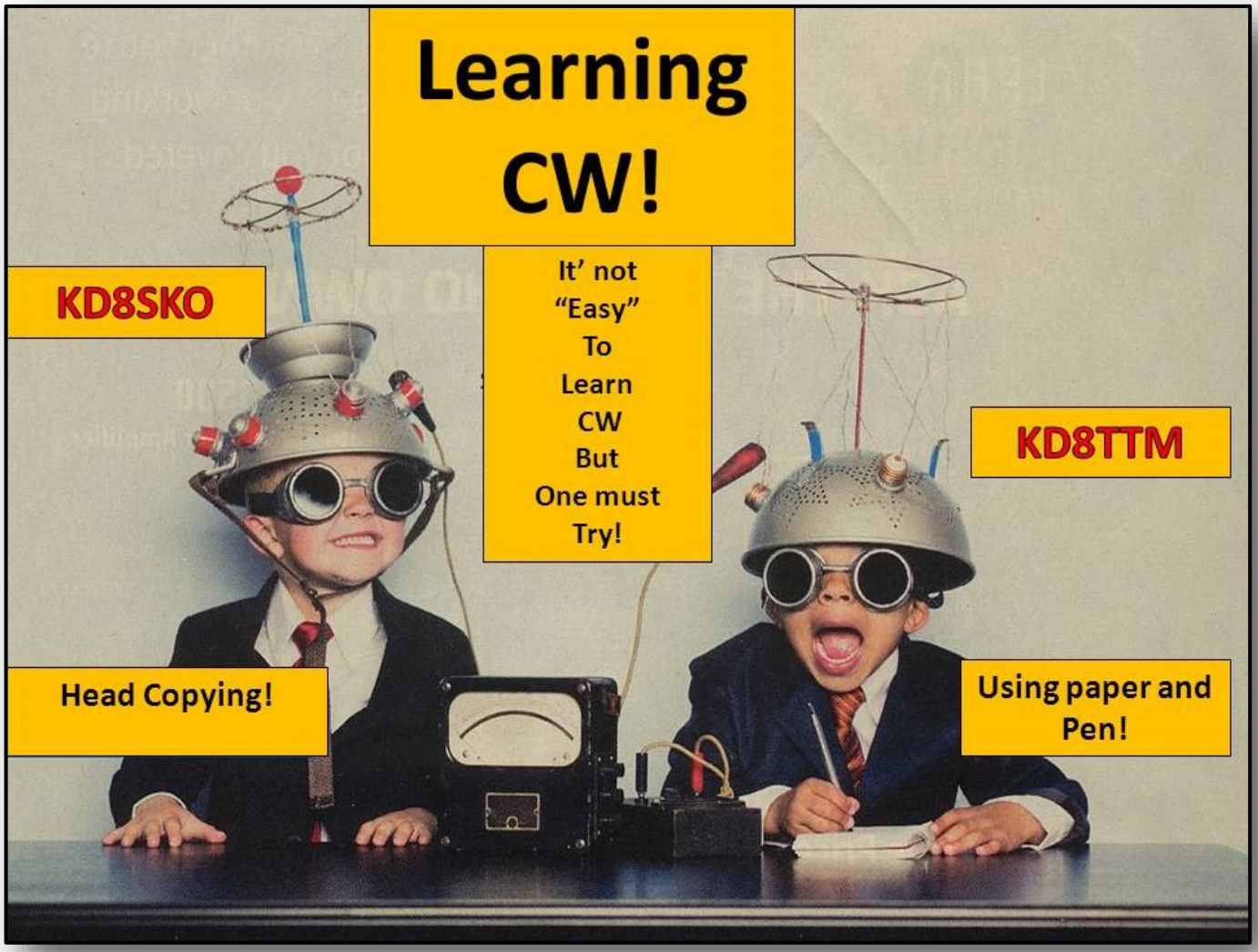
Sunday Ted and Don ran W1AW/8 for SKCC contacts. They worked on 20m and 40m looking for SKCC members. They made 65 contacts and 66% of them were SKCC members. Ted says not enough for SKCC award but it's a start!

With the weekend over and more W1AW/8 up for grabs Ted plans on running the empty time slots to get to 2000 QSOs. Fantastic Job!!









As many of you know K8KIC and K8AQM are regularly on Tuesday and Thursday evening at 8:00 and on 28.050 for some cw chat. Everyone is invited to join in and although Tuesdays are "usually" at a higher speed, the code is slowed to the need of those joining. Thursday evenings are dedicated to a much slower speed to help those learning the code to improve their skill.

Lately Don KD8SKO has joined the cw chat both Tuesday and Thursday to develop the skill of copying CW in his head rather than using pen and paper. Bill KD8TTM has been learning code and "sometimes" can be coaxed to joining us using his pen and paper method for copying the code.

You can see by the picture here that both boys are dedicated and serious about learning the code!

Keep up the good work boys!

Kent Morse Key TP1-B

While at KH/6, Brian KG8CO, had the opportunity to operate from the Battleship Missouri KH6BB. The key he used was a Kent Morse Key Twin Paddle TP1-B. He liked it so much that when Brian got home he got on DX engineering website and order himself one as soon as he got home from the DXpedition! Still waiting on the diagnosis of the Eagle????

" THIS IS 1967 AND 3W IS ON THE MOST WANTED LIST…GET THAT BIG VERTICAL UP ON THE BEACH AND YOUR RIG FIRED UP, NOW! " "I JUST LOVE THE SOUND OF CW IN THE MORNING"
Via Rich K8UV

The Croppy (Crappie?) Yagi
de K8AQM

Per an earlier edition of the "Tickler," a 20m two element yagi using croppy poles as the element supports was explained. The idea was to build a two element 20m yagi that could be easily transported and used during our Museum Ships adventures. Jeremy KD8VSQ and I have built these antennas and I have been tuning mine to get it ready for next June.

Here is the finished two element yagi sitting on saw-horses. The boom is eleven feet eight inches and the supports for the croppy poles is pvc pipe which W8TTH Norm cut in-half for me. The poles are held in place with tie-wraps and the wire elements on the antenna are taped in place.

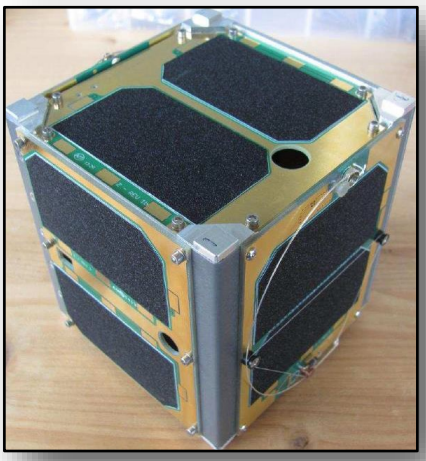
These pictures show the dipole feed with balun and the single wire reflector at the other end.

Next step was to tune the antenna, my friend Roger came over and with the use of my step-ladder and MFJ analyzer (Roger needed only a quick lesson in its use), the resonant point was found. Right now the lowest SWR is 1.5 at 14.225 but with the addition of a T-match I'll bring that down to 1:1.

The antenna weighs no more than 12 lbs. and will be perfect for use on the 40 foot aluminum tower trailer we'll use in New York at "K8O."

Jeremy will soon have the antenna to be used in Toledo at "K8E." These antennas will also be used at Field Day this year.

Amsat Fox Project



Project Fox is AMSAT's answer to the satellite communities' growing interest in CubeSats. A CubeSat is a small satellite based on a basic 4-inch (10cm) cube shape. AMSAT is developing a family of these satellites to take advantage of new launch opportunities that are now available for CubeSat educational and scientific missions.

The first members of this new family are the Fox-1 satellites as shown in the drawing below. These are currently being developed by our all-volunteer, AMSAT engineering team. They will use 70cm for uplinks and 2 meters for downlinks. Each satellite will be able to operate as both an FM analog repeater and in digital data mode. The satellites are magnetically stabilized using a permanent magnet and hysteresis rods.

Each face of the satellite has a pair of high-performance, space-rated solar cells. These solar cells drive maximum-power-point-tracking, DC-to-DC converters that will wring out as much power as possible from the cells. This power is used to charge a 10 watt-hour NiCd battery. The power system can provide a little over 2 watts continuously, even in eclipse, and quite a bit more peak power if needed.

The antennas are spring-wire whips and the VHF one is shown in its stowed position wrapped around the solar panel. The UHF antenna is on the opposite face. After deployment in orbit, they will spring out in opposite directions. Each antenna will operate as a dipole. On 70cm, the whip and the satellite body form the dipole. On 2 meters, the whip is half of the dipole and both the satellite body and the 70cm whip make up the other half. The whips are aligned with the Z-axis of the satellite which is magnetically stabilized to help minimize QSB.

It is quite a challenge to fit all of the spacecraft electronics into such a small package! The engineering team has come up with the design shown below. The satellite consists of a stack of nine printed circuit cards with bus connectors running up the stack.

At the bottom of the stack is the RF Tx card which is the 2-meter transmitter. It will provide a minimum of 400mW output that will make the satellite very easy to hear.

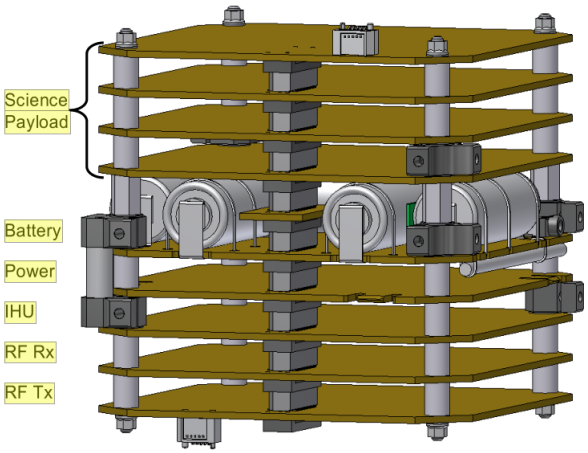
Next up is the RF Rx card that has a very sensitive 70cm receiver using a low-noise preamp and a surface-acoustic-wave filter to minimize interference.

The Internal Housekeeping Unit or IHU card provides the brains of the satellite and it includes a modern 32-bit microprocessor with 128K of program memory and 16K of RAM. The IHU card also includes a non-volatile, magneto-resistive memory (MRAM) device that can store up to 128K of telemetry and experiment data.

The Power card has the DC-to-DC converters for the solar panels.

Finally, the Battery card has the NiCd battery and an active temperature control system. The control system is intended to prevent damage to the batteries from the temperature extremes that will be seen inside the satellite. Mounted to the bottom of the Battery card are the magnetic hysteresis rods used to stabilize the satellite along with the permanent magnet shown along the left side of the stack.

The remaining four cards are available for a science payload. This represents about 35% of the total satellite volume. This capability is intended to allow AMSAT to collaborate with universities to develop and fly science missions while providing a free ride for our ham radio transponder. AMSAT intends to build and fly at least four Fox-1 type satellites.



AARC Club Gossip! .....

Did you know that…

...K8NP is in Florida now but K8KIC is still playing euchre?
...K8AQM and KD8VSQ have built the portable 20m yagis for "Museum Ships?"
...KD8SKO is copying cw in his head at 20+ wpm now? You've seen the picture of him practicing, it's here in the "Tickler."
...K8AQM, KD8VSQ, KD8TTM, K8KIC and others operated as W1AW/8? Cool!
...W8TTH "almost" ran for club president?
...KD8SKO made some beautiful exotic wood paddles for the "dah" paddle for bugs? Beautiful!
...KD8TTM worked his first CW QSO and checked in to the 10m CW net?
...WE8Z got "two" rotor control boxes for the club? Thanks Denny!
...K8KIC is the "chief" Lenawee County accordion swapper?
...NU8Z's 30 year old rotor finally died...sort of?
...K8AQM got a new DXpedition antenna...just like KG8CO's?
...K2IBM is "finally" discovering the joys of 40m? After all these years?
...K8KIC got a new digital recorder? So many functions neither he nor K2IBM can figure them out!
...NU8Z is getting a set of new knees? Ugh!
...KD8TTM has been known to use 2m to copy the 10m coded net????????
...KD8VSQ can load his 2m antenna on 6m? What about 440 MHz Jeremy?
...W8TQE, K8KIC, KD8TTM, KD8SKO, KD8VSQ and WE8Z all got a "rare" KH6/K8AQM QSL?
...in less than three hours KD8VSQ built a narrow band FM radio for 2 and 6 meters?
...K8AQM has two less big trees to hang antennas from...but "lots" more firewood?
...N8PJP Stan has a new 50 foot tower up and a Clipperton amp?
...KD8ZKD Donna is now known as N7XYL?

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club board met at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport on 29 Sept. 2014. The meeting was called to order by Jenny W8TTX at 7:00 pm with the following persons present. Genny W8TTX, Larry W8LNR, Neil KC8DAR, Norm W8TTH, Mark NU8Z, Bob K2IBM, and Bill KA8ARK. The financial statement presented by Mark NU8Z showed a balance of $5,582.90 Ham Classes scheduled for Oct 18.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club met at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport on 29 September, 2014. The club meeting was called to order by President Genny W8TTX at 7:30 PM with 27 persons present. The August Minutes were approved by a motion from Norm W8TTH second by Don N8AMM and a voice vote. The financial statement was presented by Mark NU8Z and showed a balance of $5,582.90, The report was accepted by a motion from Neil KC8DAR second by Norm W8TTH and a voice vote with one negative vote. Mark NU8Z reported on the financial aspect of the Ham-fest which showed a profit over $700. Mark NU8Z is also checking other insurance companies to see if we can save some money on our liability insurance. New Ham classes will be held the 18th of October. Fliers will be available for members to distribute to interested persons. Ads will also be on local radio stations if possible. Dues are due. Articles are needed for the Tickler so please send to Ted K8AQM or Jeremy KD8VSQ. Joe K8YZA announced a Simulated Exercise Test (SET) on October 4, Times and frequencies on will be published on the club Website when made available. Club officer nominations were made tonight with voting to be next month. Those nominated were Ginny W8TTX and Bob K2IBM for President, Bill KA8ARK for secretary and Mark NU8Z for treasurer. A Motion that the nominations be closed was passed. Next month we will vote for President, and Board members for the coming year will be nominated. Hot Dogs and Sloppy Joes left over from the Hamfest will be served. Ted K8AQM will perhaps elaborate on his fall down the hill as he tells about his most recent adventure in Fiji and Tonga. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. Bill KA8ARK Secretary. (a few typos edited by K2IBM)

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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adrianarc@mailman.qth.net