W8TQE
145.370 - 85.4 pl 444.675 + 123 pl

The Tickler

Volume 43, Issue 1 January, 2014

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone. I hope everyone has had a good new year so far and I hope you stayed warm during below zero cold spell that we had at the beginning of the month. The weather has certainly been up and down in temperature this year.

This year's hamfests have already started. Hazel Park's hamfest was on January 12th. I hope some of you had a chance to go and check out any deals that could be had. Norm W8TTH and I didn't have the time to go this year. Next month will be the Mansfield hamfest which will be held on February 16th, however we probably won't be attending that one either this year. There is something else that Norm wants to attend and it is a lot closer to home. If you have never been to that hamfest, you may think about going. It is a little far a way, but it is a good sized show and usually has many vendors. Coming up soon, in March there will be the Marshall Hamfest and the TMRA Hamfest. These are both usually well attended shows.

I don't have a lot to say this month. I am however very sorry that I missed the meeting last month. I don't have any excuse other than I was laid off from my fulltime job for the week of Christmas and New Years and I couldn't keep track of what day was what. I hope that is not what it is like to be retired although I may never get to retire. I was busy the whole time I was off work and on that day after I got done with my other job, I decided to go directly from Toledo to Ann Arbor and visit the Apple Store. I had washed my I-Phone 5 back in May and Norm managed to get it to operate for me, but it decided to completely stop working right before Christmas. He had mentioned that maybe the Apple Store could do something with it or give me some options. They did and that was where I was when Dr. Bob K2IBM called me at 7:15 p.m. on meeting night. There was no way I could make it home in fifteen minutes and the folks up there hadn't even taken care of my problem yet. I made it home after Norm got home from the meeting. Once again I do apologize and I'll try not to let it happen again, but I am only human. The saying is "To err is human to forgive is divine". I hope those of you that attended the meeting did have a good night and I suppose I missed some great stories.

Don't forget to check out our website at www.w8tqe.com. Thanks to Bob K2IBM it is a great looking website and you will find anything you need to know or learn about the club there. Make sure to pass anything to him that you would like to see posted.

I would also like to thank Ted K8AQM for the great job he does on this newsletter. Make sure you also keep articles and pictures going to Ted.

Hope to see you at the meeting on January 27th.

73,
Ginny W8TTX

KD8TTM Shack

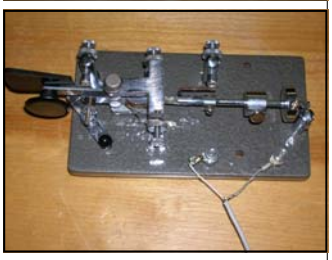
Bill KD8TTM has been very active since getting his license in the past year. Operating from an apartment with limited antenna possibilities, Bill has almost achieved WAS, WAC and several impressive DX contacts. The antenna is a multi-band dipole for 40, 20 and 10m which also loads well on 15m. Both a TS-530 and TenTec Triton IV have put Bill on PSK and SSB. Bill is now learning CW and as we know, both his contacts and DX will greatly increase! Well done Bill, keep going and the WAS, WAC and DXCC will be yours!

The 25 Buck Bug!

I like to restore old telegraph keys and especially "bugs". I saw the Les Logan bug (today know as the Johnson Speed-X bug) all bent and corroded for $25 including shipping! Who could resist! So on "a buy now" option at that site that offers such, I bought it. First thing was to take it all apart and soak it over-night in water and cleaner; with a tooth brush used the next day the grime and crud of 50+ years came off.

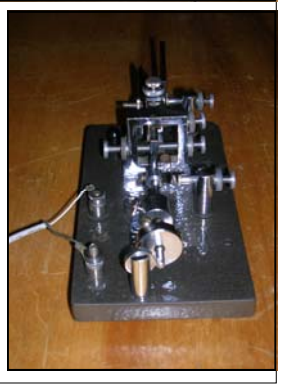
Now to straighten that pendulum, if I break it, I now have $25 worth of parts. I should ask W8TTH the best way to do this but what the heck, I took two pair of pliers and holding tightly, gently bent the pendulum straight. The pendulum arm bent straight and all was well.

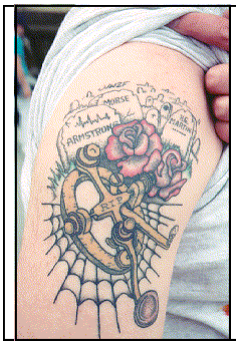
Next, time to "scratch-up" that corroded base and get it steelwooled and sanded ready for primer. A circular sander with both 80 and 320 grit make all kinds of nice grooves in that corroded chrome plating to allow the primer paint to take hold. Two coats of primer and two coats of "hammered" paint make a very nice base from the corroded chrome base.



A bit of "Brasso" on the chromed parts and it is ready for reassembly!

Now I have a very nice looking Les Logan Speed-X bug and all for $25, what a deal!





CW Dead? I Don't Think So!!!!

This picture was sent to me by good friend Larry, K8TEZ, and my first thought was "cool, this guy really likes cw." WRONG! This guy has "RIP" headstones around the key, the key shows neglect with cobb or spider webs around it and the roses are like those people send to funeral homes! Ack, how could I not have noticed this before?!? I happened to have the call of this individual along with the picture and after checking on QRZ I see he is an Extra Class from the early 70s! Well, he is wrong, CW is very much alive and well, just check the SKCC roster and you'll find over 11,700 members alone! CW dead, HA!

AARC Club Gossip! .....

Did you know that…

...KG8CO Brian, was PA/KG8CO/mm while on vacation sailing on Holland America Ship Lines?
...Tokyo Hy-Power amplifiers went bankrupt? KG8CO, NU8Z and N8KR own a Tokyo Hy-Power amp!
...KD8TTM Bill, is planning on learning cw? "If you can't fight them, you might as well join them!"
...The W8TQE team running K3Y/8 has made over 500 QSO this year?
...KD8TTM and KD8SVQ did a multi op for the NAQP SSB event?
...Next week K8AQM will be QRV as ZF2TA?
...K8TLT has built two magnetic loop antennas?
...KD8TTM is building a magnetic loop antenna?
...K8KIC sold his accordion to a museum? The accordion, not himself...ha!
...KR8W sat in a chair and the entire chair collasped as Jerry was logging? Wow!
...N8KR nearly froze when he returned from Florida?
...The 20m Sunday morning "Florida Express" is still QRV 8:00AM on or about 14.340 MHz?
...W8IQO is into solar power for his mobile "go station?"
...KD8SKO is very good on his bug now that he has a W8TTH "dot extender?"
...KD8TTM and K8KIC make a good logging/operating team?
...ZF2TA may be using an 11 element log in the Caymans?
...N8KR is nearly finished achieving his "S" in SKCC while KD8SKO just got his "T"?
...KD8TTM and KD8VSQ are both studying/learning CW?
...KD8VSQ taught K8AQM how to make and add a CW ringtone to his phone? Thanks Jeremy!
...K8TLT gave a 440 repeater to K8AQM for delivery to Japan? Thanks Cletus!

AARC Club Minutes

No Club minutes received this month

W8IQO "Go Station"

Several weeks ago Ron, W8IQO brought his recently constructed "go station" to the Monday night gab meetings. Since then Ron has put together a "new and improved" box and here is the latest. Ron will take it with his motor cycle on his camping trips in a small travel trailer with his bike. He's now working on improved antennas for these camping trips as well as developing solar power for recharging his mobile station's batteries.

Ron also recently bought an ALS-600, a solid state 600 watt amp for his home station.

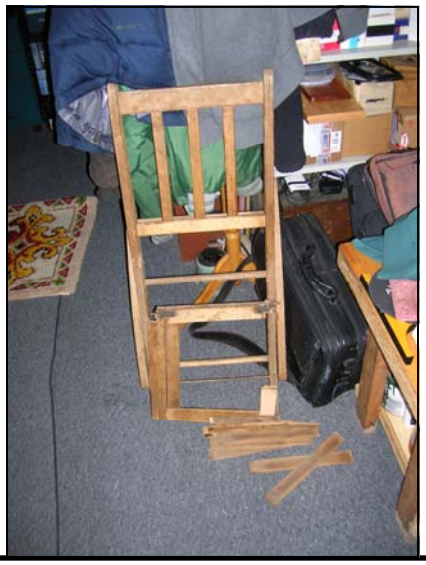
K3Y/8 aka W8TQE

Once again it was time for the annual gathering of straight key operators at the K8AQM shack where we operate as K3Y/8 under the club call W8TQE. This year was just as much fun as in the past even with fewer friends who couldn't make the trip to join us. Of course Ken, K8KIC was there pounding the brass with Bill, KD8TTM doing Ken's logging as Ken piled up the QSOs on 40m.

Good friend Curt, KU8L operated with the big log periodic on the WARC bands and 10m and made a lot of folks very happy. Curt was impressed with the log on 30m as so many EU stations began to answer his CQs...that happens on 30m with an antenna at 100+ feet!

Rich, K8UV came in on Sunday and carried on with the 40m pileups throughout the day.

Don, KD8SKO did a great job on both 20m and 80m running stations. KR8W, Gerry (seen in the lower right picture in the middle) logged for Don. Interesting story about Gerry; he was just sitting there logging and the chair he was sitting on exploded! Why you ask? Perhaps the chili ('nough said) but more likely because the wooden chair was more than 100 years old and perhaps dry-rotted. Fortunately Gerry wasn't hurt and all was well. You can see the "exploded" chair below.



That's good friend Wes, AC8JF sitting next to Gerry enjoying a break from logging with me with a bowl of chili. Hey! You don't suppose Wes and the chili had anything to do with Gerry's exploding chair…., naw, that can't be. Wes wouldn't be responsible for that….or would he?!? Arrgh!!!!!!

And here are a couple more operating pictures before we get into the best part of the operation. That's Don, KD8SKO, Bill, KD8TTM and Ken, K8KIC there on the left and Curt, KU8L on the right. I recall Curt being pretty much "gluded" to that chair from 10 AM until 10 PM Saturday, he really enjoyed running the log and the Alpha!

Ok, now the good part of the even;….the food! No one eats better than us! Just check out the food tables in the shack on the left there.

On Saturday we had chili for lunch along with bread, crackers, sodas, cookies, homemade German pretzels (via Dave KC8IYC...yum!), nuts, and chips. Dinner brought us a four foot Subway, life is good!

Sunday we were short of ops so we just palin took a break and all ate together. Unfortunately because we were op short, I have pictures of us eating but not many pictures of us operating! Again, a new pot of chili and stuff for lunch. That's Don, N8AMM and Brian, KG8CO in the first picture enjoying lunch. Ned, W8VFM came on Sunday and really enjoyed himself working 40m with Bill, KD8TTM as his logger (Bill's joke comment was , "Ned, I can read your writing of calls much better than I could K8KIC's!") Both Ned and I enjoyed the chili and laughs together.

Hmm, how come it is that in the only pictures I have of KG8CO, he seems to be really relaxing!!! Seriously, Brian's "thing" is not straight key operating but he is great support and was taking time from his very serious 160m receiving antenna installation. An eight element vertical receiving array takes a lot of work and effort.

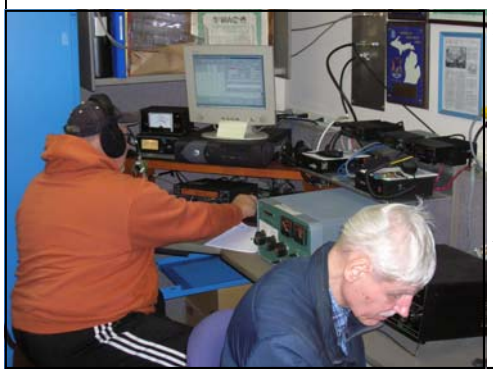
All in all, we had a great weekend running K3Y/8. It was great to "hang" with friends and to pass out all those K3Y/8 QSOs. When the event ended we had made 451 QSOs and made a lot of SKCCer's happy.

If all goes as planned we'll do it again next year and gather again at the K8AQM shack for K3Y/8 aka W8TQE!

KD8SKO

In the past year Don, KD8SKO got his license (Tech no code), upgraded to General, taught himself cw, got an FT-890, a straight key and a bug! Wow, this has been a very good year for Don. He joined the Straight Key Century Club, worked 100 cw station in the club, got his "C" and recently worked an additional 50 C and T stations to achieve his "T" status within the club. He has operated in straight key sprint contests, operated as K3Y/8 and was part of the W8TQE-K3Y/8 yeam operating 20m and 80m. He has both a Navy Flameproof key and a TAC 1937 bug with the famous W8TTH "dot extender".

Don checks into the Thursday 10m CW net and has achieved the coveted "K8KIC good fist seal of approval," not easily achieved!
Nice to see an up and coming younger club member! Well done Don!



Club Station K3Y/8

On January 21, KD8VSQ, K8KIC and K8AQM oprated the club station as K3Y/8 in the SKCC sprint event for two hours. It was the first time the new station setup was used and much was learned.

We operated on 40m and 20m with amplifiers and the club's new bandpass filters. There was no ontermod between the stations. The beam was nestled at its lowest level (about 20 feet) and fixed in a NE direction. It was too cold to go out and crank up the tower (a reason to consider a motor to raise the tower) and the beam would not rotate(maybe because it was nestled?). The radios worked great and the amps ran fine at 500 watts each.

The computers worked but they are very old and slow; anyone have any old but newer computers? The internet was down but it really wasn't needed for this event. There are no headphones in the station so headphones were brought in for temporary use.

All this being said, we had a great time and worked 45 stations with very poor band conditions, lots of atmospheric noise. We received very good signal reports from other stations so the Alpha Delta 40/80m antenna worked well. Ken, K8KIC ran 40m and Jeremy, KD8VSQ did the logging. Jeremy complained that the logging program made it so easy it was like "cheating"….he wasn't around when logging was done on paper and with paper dupe sheets! Cheating...no, "heaven!"

Are there improvements to be made at the station...yes, but few. Will we do this type of operation again again; you bet! We had fun. The contest began at 7:00 PM and we had everything cleaned-up, turned off, unplugged, turned down (the heat) and were out of there by 9:11 PM.

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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 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 28.325 +/-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 14, 2014
Hamfest Chair
Mark NU8Z@comcast.net

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

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