W8TQE
145.370 - 85.4 pl 444.675 + 123 pl

The Tickler

Volume 43, Issue 2 February, 2014

From the Prez.....

Hello everyone. I wish winter was over with already. I have seen so much snow I could care less, if I were ever to see anymore. Imagine what will happen once all this white stuff melts. Hopefully it doesn't melt all at once then we will have mud everywhere.

Thanks to all the beautiful snow storms we have been receiving in our wonderful city our meeting last month was almost non-existent. The only folks that were in attendance were Bob K2IBM, Mark NU8Z, Larry W8LNR, and I. We didn't officially cancel the meeting as we thought others may try to venture out on the roads and we didn't want them to get all the way to the club only to find no one else was there. I picked up the donuts and we stayed about an hour. I am glad you stayed home where you were warm and safe, but I did miss you all. We had a good time and talked about a lot of things and even thought about the possibility of passing a bunch of new motions since no one else was there to vote, but we were afraid you might impeach us. …. .. …. ..

There are a couple of hamfests coming up in the next month. Marshall Hamfest will be on March 15th and the next day the TMRA Hamfest will take place. Norm W8TTH and I will be attending the TMRA Hamfest, but I am not sure if we will make it to Marshall or not. It is too early to predict what we will have going on since we are so busy. They are usually both pretty nice hamfests and are well attended hopefully you can make it to at least one of them.

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 he keeps up the website. Also, don't forget our newsletter editor, Ted K8AQM. He also needs our support.

See you at the meeting on February 24th. 73,

Ginny, W8TTX

Koffee, Keys and Cooties!

That's Dave KC8ITC (4312), and Bud K8LAR examine a "cootie" that belongs to Dave. If I told someone I had a cootie or several cooties some people would run away while others would want to see, feel and touch them! If you're a CW man you would fall in the latter group. A "cootie" key a cross between a straight key and a bug (hmm, cw guys like cooties and bugs?). Picture two straight keys back to back while on their sides and you slap each side alternately to send your cw...that's how a cootie or "side swiper" (as they sometimes are called) works.

KC8ITC(4312), K8LAR and K1ND (6099)often meet for coffee and "gossip"…..well, at least discuss important "radio" issues. Anyway, Dave brought his cootie for the guys to examine and Jan K1ND sent these great photos. This is a very old cootie, possibly pre 1900 and was made by the Burnell Company who made many fine sounders, straight keys, cooties and bugs up through WWII.

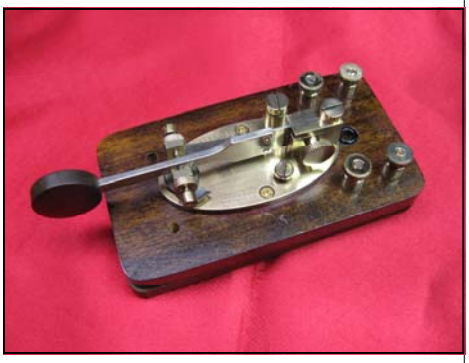
You can see and imagine how a cootie works side-to-side from the lower picture. Dave gave a brief history of the his cootie as follows:

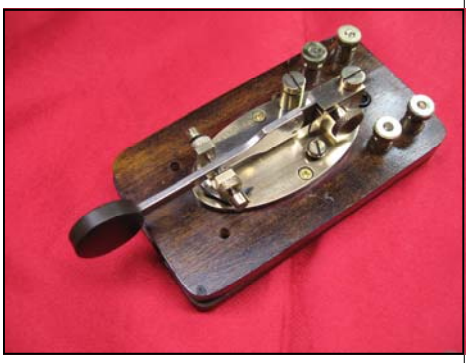
"My history with the key is brief...it is a gift from an old friend who said that he picked it up at a local sale. Jan and Bud both thought that it looked rather old...and definitely was made by the J.H. Bunnell Co., which began the production about 1880s."

K8LAR, who did the refurbishing, said:

"After I took it apart at first I thought it had a coating of some kind on it...soaked the brass in acetone with no effect. Used some polish with very little little effect and tried a couple non-abrasive cleaners. Finally, in desperation on a place that was not easily visible, I tried 0000 steel wool... which worked fairly well...the bottom line is I used a wire brush in a moto-tool on the smaller and round pieces and ended cleaning flat pieces with 400 and then 600 grit carborundom paper. Then finally polishing everything with Met-All. The base received a coat of antique paste wax. Wish I could figure how the original base was...it obviously had been modified, and of course the original shorting switch was not there. The corrosion was unlike anything I have ever seen."

Editor….Now that's a beautiful job!





AARC Club Gossip! .....

Did you know that…
...K8KIC bought "another" accordion?
...KG8CO has his 8 element 160m hearing array working? Great job Brian!
...KD8SKO gained another award from SKCC?
...KG8CO, K2IBM, K8KIC, KC8DAR, N8KR all worked ZF2TA ON **SSB** this year?
...NU8Z, KG8CO, N8KR, K8KIC, KD8SKO, N8AMM and N8CC worked ZF2TA on cw this year?
...KD8TTM enjoys working QSO parties?
...K8AQM and N8KR have a new club call? "WS8KCC," it's the "Old Men's SKCC Club" but Ken says it "legally" is the Ohio-Michigan SKCC Club.
...WB8NPI, Bill, is building a 2m tuner?
...K2IBM figured out how to "modify" his old 14AVQ vertical for 80m and lose 15 and 20m????
...ZF2TA QSL cards are at the printer now?
...NU8Z has an Elecraft KX1 for traveling?
...KD8TTM, Bill, caught W1AW/KH6 on 15m SSB with his 40m dipole? Great catch Bill!
...K8KIC now has his "C" in the Straight Key Century Club? Nice!
...KD8VSQ is into APRS? He was tracked while in Kansas by KD8TTM.
...K8ADM programmed a 440 repeater going to Japan? Thanks Al!
...Don, KD8SKO, will be a pitcher this summer for a traveling baseball team?
...KD8TTM, Bill, may soon be the owner of WF8F's Mosely TA-36+40m add ons?
...W8IQO, Ron, is building his solar charging mobile unit?
...KD8TTM was heard on 10m CW Thursday night net? Wow!
...KD8VSQ Jeremy, has a new 2m antenna?
...there is a new chair and 40 amp power supply in the KD8TTM shack?
...K8KIC is planning to upgrade to "T" in the March SKS and WES?

AARC Club Minutes

Add a counterpoise to your HT

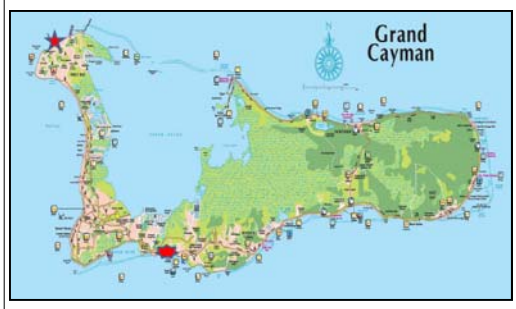
The most effective thing you can do to improve the performance of your handheld transceiver (HT) is to replace the stock antenna with a longer one. Remember that a 1/4 wave on 2m is approximately 19 inches. Once you've done that, consider adding a counterpoise to the antenna. This video shows how simple it is to do that. A counterpoise will improve both the transmit and receive performance of your radio.

73,

Dan KB6NU

ZF2TA 2014

Michigan winters can be bad news and especially this past one! My XYL (WD8LCH) and I had had enough so off to somewhere warm! Last year we headed for Grand Cayman and thought it would again be a great place for a "winter warm-up." We travel the last week in January (how convient for K3Y!) to give ourselves a winter rest. So off to ZF land we went! We stay at Cobalt Coast, a diving resort on the very north tip of the island(see red star). You can see the "jungle" bungalow on the left where we stay. The "shack" occupies a desk in the living-dinning-kitchen room. With a computer for logging, my straight key and K2/100 I'm good to go! The antenna "farm" is a Force 12 Sigma V covering 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20m. You can see the Sigma is a vertical dipole with easy switching bands. I installed a 30m inverted V with the apex at 17 ft. I use RG-174 coax and it works well with about 75 ft and some loss of course but still giving me 60+ watts output.



Check out the picture of the ZF1A club station where I got to operate for an afternoon! I used the 17 el log periodic at 100 ft and my K2 /100...great signals! They have a 2 element 80m yagi and lots of other antennas! A very impressive station!

If you want one of the "snazzy" looking ZF2TA QSLs for 2014 just send direct with SASE. If you use theSKCC bureau and have an envelope on file you'll get a card regardless.

Thanks to all who pulled my weak signal through. Next year maybe from another warm winter spot; C6A, 6Y5, VP9 or…..?

PS: I did work SSB; K2IBM, KG8CO, K8KIC, KC8DAR and N8KR.

73, Ted
K8AQM/ZF2TA

A Gift From Japan

Back in 1990-91 while living in Japan I met some great friends. Yasuo Nokura san became a special friend. He visited here and I have visited him in Japan with Jeff, N8CC, and Brian, KG8CO.

One of Nokura san's hobby is woodworking. He recently made and sent a very fine "K8AQM" plaque I now have hanging on mt shack wall. He also is good at putting "rocket ships" in a bottle! Nukura san is JA3EUV and also KG8GI. Thank you Nokura san!

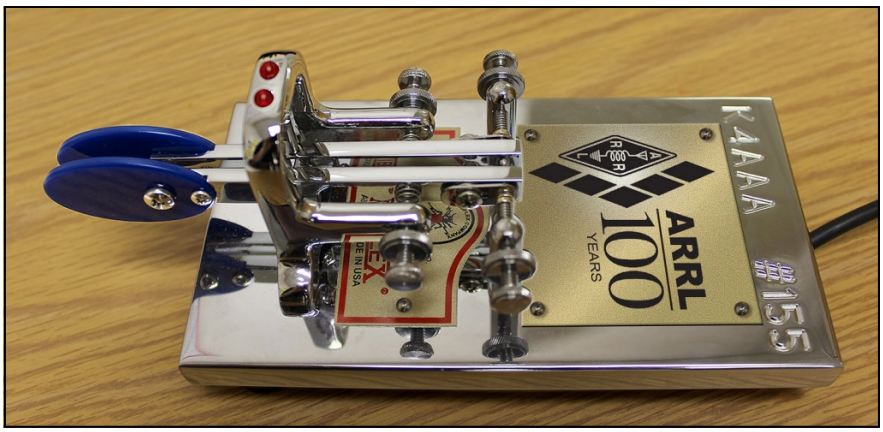
A Neglected Antenna and Tower

When Marion, WF8F, became a "silent key" about four or five years ago, his equipment was sold but the tower and antenna remained. Through the years the Mosely TA-36 with 40 m add-ons was neglected and now the antenna is disconnected from the mast and hanging in the guy wires and tree branches. Some elements are broken and some are bent but it may be possible to salvage the antenna yet. KD8TTM, Bill, will attempt this project. He plans to secure permission to give it a try when the weather breaks a bit. With the help of some friends and his son, it is hoped to get the antenna down without more damage.

The tower itself is still in question and its exact condition is still to be determined. Hopefully some sections can be salvaged. More as the work progresses.

Paddle to Sideswiper

The ARRL and Vibroplex have come up with this beautiful anniversary paddle. Yes a paddle but it also can be wired as a sideswiper! This looks like a real beauty and comes with your call and is also numbered. Since I do use a paddle when chasing DX, I can switch it back to a paddle when needed or if I'm too far gone to learn sending with a sideswiper! Not to mention, this is a pretty darn good way to support the ARRL. Just "Google" ARRL centenial paddle for more information.



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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

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First Class