W8TQE
145.370 - 85.4 pl 444.675 + 123 pl

The Tickler

Volume 43, Issue 5 May, 2014

From the Prez.....

Hi everyone.

I hope you are enjoying the weather. Another Dayton has came and gone. The weather we had there on Saturday reminded me of the time when the Dayton Hamvention was held in April. We had sunshine, we had rain, it was cold at times, and we had hail!

Overall Dayton was good. We all had a good time with good friends. Ted has a picture that I am pretty sure he will put in paper of a couple of the guys sitting in the motorcycle trailer with her hands over a fire. Just like the old days when it would snow at Dayton.

Our meeting this month has been postponed a week due to the Memorial Day holiday. Our next meeting will therefore be held on June 2nd at the normal time. In the month of June I believe there are couple hamfest that I'm aware of. Fulton County amateur radio club will be having one in Tedrow, Ohio on June 8th. And of course Monroe will hold theirs on Father's Day, June 15th. It is always a good time. Hope to see you there.

Museum Ship Weekend is also June 7 and 8th. Some of our club members will be at the James Schoonmaker in Toledo and others will be up at the Sault Ste Marie Locks.

Field Day is also held the last weekend of June. Our club does not have any structured plan, but there are several clubs in the area that do. Fulton County Amateur Radio Club will be in Tedrow again on that weekend and they are very active.

Hope to see you at the meeting on June 2nd.

73,

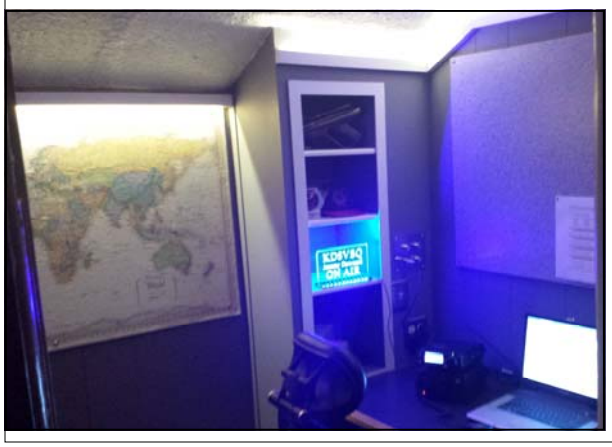
Ginny
W8TTX

W8TTH and N8KR trying to warm inside the trailer a with a gas burner!

June Club Program

The program for June (the last Monday in June) will be on "fiber optics" and will be presented by Neil, K8NP.

Birthday Surprize!

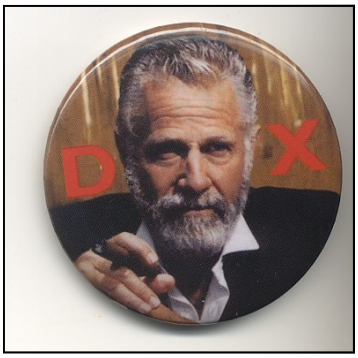


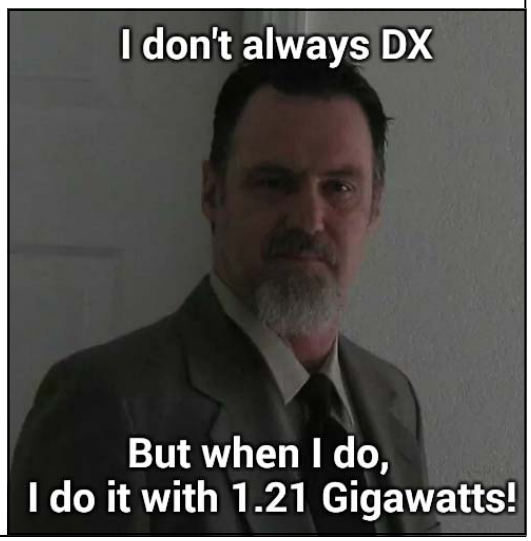
Jeremy KD8VSQ, has a nice new shack, new rig and new antenna and a fairly new General Class license. Little did he know another "new" was on the way. This past month being his birthday (how old is he?), his parents surprised him with an LED call sign for his shack. You can see the "ON the Air" sign in the picture. Whever Jeremy turns on the power supply the sign lights.

I mentioned to Jeremy the "purple haze" reminded me of my college days and black lights. I asked him if he had ever heard of "Jimi Hendricks" … he actually knew who he was! If you don't know then "purple haze" means nothing to you.

World's Most Interesting Man!

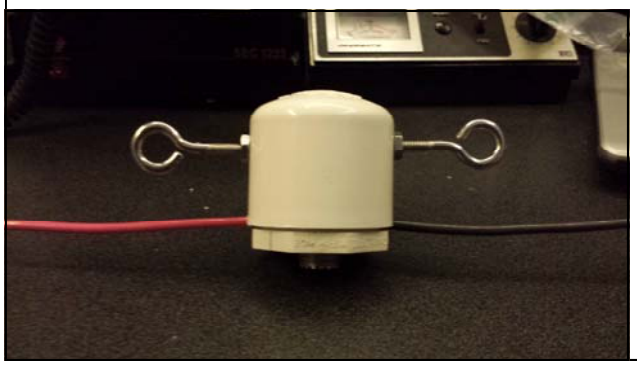
Bill KD8TTM, had to "spiffy-up" for a meeting and made the mistake of showing up at the Monday night BS gathering at the club. Naturally with today's smart phones pictures were taken and KD8VSQ decided to have some fun. If you've seen the commercial with "The World's Most Interesting Man" you'll appreciate the fine work done by KD8VSQ. It almost appears Bill could be the "son" of "The World's Most Interesting Man!"





Dipole Center Insulator

When putting up a dipole there are many commercially available center insulators. Here is an insulator for dipole centers designed and made by Jeremy KD8VSQ. This summer will see this insulator used in Jeremy's new multi-band dipole. Looks like a winner!



AARC Club Gossip! .....

Did you know that…

...Can you believe it, K8KIC bought another accordion? The same one he sold earlier!
...KD8TTM Bill, built a "buddy pole antenna for 17m?
...N8CC calls himself a "shack potato?"
...KC8ITC Dave, drove K8AQM nuts when he lent him his "cootie" to practice with?
...K8AQM is checking out a low band triplexer? Ever hear of such a thing?
see http://www.inrad.net/product.php?productid=347
...K8KIC enjoys usingKC8ITC's "cootie"…..and Ken is really good on it too?
...N8AMM has a new rig? It's an FT-1000MP!
...K8AQM has a new rig? It's a K3/100!
...N8KR bought an Alpha 76 amplifier?
...N8AMM has a new amp in the shack? It's an Alpha 76A, three holer!
...N8AMM has an Ameritron AL-8ll four holer (with 572Bs) for sale?
...W8TTH and W8TTX had "MAJOR" truck troubles at Dayton?
...KG8CO has had a visiter with Switzerland, Chris HB9ELV staying with him?
...K8AQM has a panadapter for the new K3?
...KD8VSQ is still working DX? Jeremy needs an amp!
...KD8TTM is still working DX? Bill needs an amp!
…"World's Most Interesting Man" and KD8TTM are one-and-the-same? No kidding, ask KD8VSQ!

AARC Club Minutes

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club board met at the Civil Air Patrol building at the Lenawee County Airport on April 28, 2014 and was called to order by President Genny W8TTX at 7:00 PM. The board discussed purchase of Duplexers for emergency backup, Dayton tickets, Michigan QSO party, Field Day, purchase of an antenna for the Civil Air Patrol's HF Rig. The board adjourned at 7:35 PM.

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order by President Genny W8TTX at 7:40 PM. Dave KC8ITC won the 50/50 drawing and donated his winnings back to the Station Fund, Thanks to you Dave. There were nineteen persons present. There was a motion by Dave KC8ITC to accept the March minutes as published in the Tickler second by Mark NU8Z, motion passed by voice vote. The financial statement was presented by Mark NU8Z and showed a balance of $5,036.77. Marks report was accepted by a motion from Denny WE8Z second by Larry W8LNR, the motion was passed by voice vote with one no vote. Joe K8YZA reported on the recent weather training class held at Sienna Heights. We need a net controller for the Sunday net and since nobody volunteered there will be no net this Sunday. It was decided to sell the club's gold microphone at the Dayton Hamvention. Dave KC8ITC reported on a Moto Turbo digital handheld. Norm W8TTH will be researching Duplexers for emergency use. The Museum ship in Toledo will be open on weekends and Denny reported on a website for additional information "k8valleycamp.com". Fielddayis scheduled for September 14, beginning at 8 00 AM Sunday. The next meeting would normally be held on Memorial Day, but will be held on June second instead.

The meeting was adjourned at nine fifty PM, Bill KA8ARK secretary.

K8NP's Florida Antenna

Neil K8NP goes to Floria for the winters and for years pulled a fifth wheel and both he and Denny WE8Z stayed in the same park. Last year Neil bought a home in another area and now has established a ham shack in his new home. Keeping it simple, Neil decided a vertical would work fine for QSOs on Sunday mornings talking to the boys back home (ie, K8KIC, K8TLT, ...etc.).

Neil acquired a Huster 4BTV vertical and added the 75 meter resonator to the top giving him five bands. For radials Neil figured his steel roof would be ideal. Upon mounting the vertical and attaching the base to the steel roof Neil found that system did not workout well at all! That's strange but then with antennas a lot of strange things happen. Neil decided to just go with two radials (what length?) and lay them in the evetough. The SWR was great and the radials remain hidden, a perfect outcome. Coupled with his AL-811 amp Neil has a very strong signal back home according to K8KIC.

Interestly, now Denny WE8Z, is thinking about establishing himself in a permenent home in the same area! Too much QRM!

New Rig at K8AQM

I have been using an FT-1000MP bought from K8AA many years ago. It's a great radio but technology has pushed ahead and today's modern high-end transceivers sport a digital display showing the stations on a band and the relative atmosphereic noise level. Many have praised the Elecraft K-3 100 watt transceiver with dual receivers, lots of filtering options and an accompanying pan adapter scope. Since I own three Elecraft K2/100 Elecraft radios I decided it was time to "upgrade" to more modern technology.

The opportunity came up to acquire a K3 with all my desired options and included the pan adapter unit. At Dayton this year I picked up the units and as you can see they fit nicely into my station. It has been a learning curve but not too steep and I can say at this point I am pleased with the K3 and am enjoying the "visual" view of the band I am operating on. I've only just scratched the surface of the options available to me but day-by-day I learn a bit more of the K3's tricks and gadets.

The FT-1000MP? Why, N8AMM is now enjoying dual receivers and an Alpha amp in his newly designed ham shack there in Morenci!

Dayton 2014

Wow, what a Dayton. I won't go into the troubles W8TTH and W8TTX had enroute and during Dayton, that's their story to tell but I will say the trailer returned attached to my F-150 and thanks to the good driving by Ken N8KR everything arrived back safely!

The weather was "unbelieable." Thursday when we arrived the sky was cloudy and we set up the awning there at the club site. Friday morning was cloudy overcast and threatening rain. We managed to get everything setup and the gates opened. Shortly after the hamfest opened the first of many rain showers began. Fortunately this rain was only slightly slanted and away from our setup but it definitely chased everyone inside the area building and out of the flea market.

Not only was it raining but the temperature was barely into the 40s! It was so cold that after a short break in the rain it began to hail….and hail….and hail! Those brave souls who remained shopping in the flea market completely abandoned the area and headed inside. And this was only Friday!

Saturday proved a similar repeat of the weather but even colder! You saw W8TTH and N8KR trying to warm-up in the trailer over a gas burner plate. But now the rain got real "unfriendly," it came in slanting sheets so hard nothing was safe and the "fleas" we had for sale had to be covered to protect them from being drenched!

But this doesn't mean we didn't have fun at Dayton! Although cold we made sure the old Red Roof Inn was "rockin'" with cigars and beer! That's Chris HB9ELV, from Switzerland with Brian KG8CO enjoying cigars and beer. Noz AD7TN and Wes AC8JF there on the right trying to stay out of the cold wind. "Noz" (a nick-name for "Nozumi") works for the same company as Wes and is a ham back in Japan as well.

Wouldn't you know, Sunday was sunny, blue skies and warm! We stayed until after noon and many shoppers did too with brisk sales for N8KR and his fleas!

We had our traditional Japanese dinner on Saturday night and I'm sorry to say these are all the pictures I have, although there were eleven of us in our group.

Note the three guys using "hashi" (chop sticks) while "others"...not to be mentioned… shoveled their dinners in with forks. Ugh, how crude!

As with every Dayton, spirits were high and the entire weekend will always be pleasant memories. Nice thing about our group...we always manage to make lemon aide when given lemons! Oh yeah, note our "Amish" friend...ha!

WS8KCC Operating Event

For the second time WS8KCC was in operation for a major effort and this time four members of the Adrian ARC were with the SKCCers. Ken K8KIC, Bill KD8TTM, N8KR Ken and myself were joined by good friends AC8JF Wes, AD7TN Noz and W8IQ Kurt.

The bands were full of static from a recently passing thunder storm, but the two hour event provided us with 137 QSOs, two pots of coffee, a bag of cashews, mints, beef sticks, sodas, ...you get the idea. More calories than QSOs is our tradition and we kept it alive. Oh yeah, lots of laughs too!

KD8SKO's New Antenna

Check out the new 10m three element yagi at the KD8SKO QTH! Don has always wanted a better signal on 10m and this old yagi he said was just "hanging around" It's small and light enough to be turned by a TV rotor. In several 10m QSOs Don's signal has been "booming" in and he comments he hears stations like never before!

In the picture Don also comments:

"In the picture you can see the 2m slim jim I made from 1/2" copper pipe and my G5RV is in the background as well but it is hard to see. "

Money is best spent in antennas, not amplifiers for "if you can't hear them, you can't work them!" Additionally, everyone knows, "You just can't have too many antennas!"

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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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