

The Ticker

The President's Propagation.....

Hi everyone. Winter has finally found us. I was hoping we could get through the whole winter without too much snow and ice, but I think that I might as well give up that thought. I forgot we live in Michigan. I hope you have been doing well. I missed seeing everyone last month due to the weather as we had to cancel the meeting last month.

There are a few hamfests coming up within the next few weeks. I know there is a hamfest in Hazel Park, Michigan on January 24th. In February there is one in Traverse City, Michigan on the 13th and there are two on the 21st one is in Livonia, Michigan and the other is in Mansfield, Ohio. I do not think that Norm W8TTH and I are planning on attending any of them, but if any of you can make it I am sure you will have a great time.

We lost one of our past members at the end of 2015. Muriel Perkins Etter KC8DAT passed away on December 30, 2015. She was a woman with many accomplishments in her life. If you had ever Muriel I am sure you would remember her. She had such a pleasant personality and helped many throughout her lifetime. I will have a copy of her obituary with me at the meeting.

Once again I would like to thank Bill KD8TTM for operating the Sunday night net every week. I usually forget it is Sunday and I am not by the radio to give him a check in. Norm has probably been better at remembering that I have. If I am around a radio I at least like to give Bill a check in even when I am busy around the house.

Don't forget to check out the website at www.w8tqe.com and give any information or pictures to Bob K2IBM that you would like to post on the site. He is a great web master and we all should appreciate the way he keeps up the website. Also, this newsletter would not be possible without our editor, Jeremy KD8VSQ. He also needs support from you by sending him articles and pictures. Without these two fellows, information about our club and upcoming events would not be readily available for all of us. Thank them both the great job they do for the club.

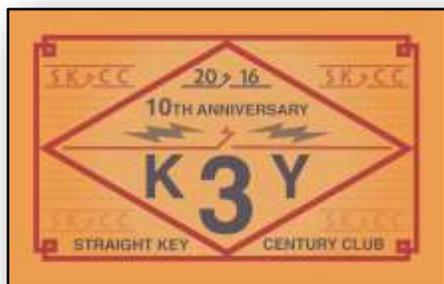
I am probably forgetting to mention something. If so, hopefully I will remember by the meeting. See you on January 25th,

Ginny
W8TTX



Ted K8AQM has a short program after the meeting!

Hope you can attend. There should be a few laughs!



K3Y/8 The SKCC 10th Anniversary

The AARC rang in the New Year with a great Multi Multi event from the shack of Ted K8AQM for the Straight Key Century Club's 10th Anniversary.

To quote the SKCC's webpage "K3Y, the Straight Key Century Club's annual January celebration, commemorates the club's founding in 2006 following the American Radio Relay League's Straight Key Night. A small group of participants wanted to extend the fun of SKN throughout the year. The SKCC is the result.

For the first three years, the club's founders used K1Y, K2A, and K3Y as the celebration's special-event calls. But someone cleverly noticed that a 3 is nothing more than a backwards, curvaceous E. This "KEY" event has operated under the K3Y call ever since."

The event from Ted's shack racked up a quite impressive QSO count for the 2 day event. 514 QSO in the log to celebrate K3Y. Many Hams showed up to help with the event even if that included helping to scarf down the great food that was there to fuel the CW Ops. Some of the food included chili, jambalaya, sandwich wraps, cheese and sausage, and other snacks and fine beverages. Viz Key even made a special visit to Ted's shack showing off a great vertical bug and camel back straight key.

The weather held off for Saturday so that the major group could come and go safely. However Sunday was a different story as it snowed over night and cause poor travel conditions. Too bad that Scott N3JJT and Tony KD8BBK couldn't make it. I think our qso count could have been a lot higher with them two at the key. But they were under the weather and didn't want to get the rest of us sick. They did however work us during both days on different bands. A week later they ran K3Y/8 from Tony's shack as K8PRC The Pedestrian Amateur Radio Club and did quite well!

In total the SKCC event has netted over 20 thousand qso with K3Y/8 having the most qsos out of all the K3Y call signs with 1848 qsos.

It was great to see everyone come out and support the AARC supporting the SKCC.

Also if your interested in seeing the videos that was produced by each group the AARC or the K8PRC you can find them at the following links below:

K3Y/8 from the AARC : <https://youtu.be/n48n1Nq1VBY>

K3Y/8 from the K8PRC : <https://youtu.be/cQKSvf3geZo>



1KW Telegraph Key

Rich K8UV

On Saturday in Farmington Hills was the Michigan Antique Radio Club swap and shop. I picked up a great key. Heavy brass, the arm is almost 7 inches long. The brass plaque on the base says " 1KW telegraph sending key. For US Navy 1918. S#

238AM Made by International Telegraph and Radio Co. Manhattan, NY. CM 1189 model" As you can see the base has two brass bolts that are designed to go through a table top and the wires connect under the bench to each threaded bolt. The contact is large nickel plated the size of a dime. The bottom is especially designed to disperse heat. The history I could dig up says the key was made for submarine chasers. I might have the only one where hams who have purchased this key in the past as surplus had cut off the bolts for table top attachment. Mine is still intact and will stay this way. I will drill two holes in my station table top and mount it the way it was intended.

Kenwood TS-520s

Jeremy recently acquired a Kenwood TS520s with Ted K8AQM's help the radio check out and was up and running in no time! Ted got the radio and brought up the power slowly on it to put life back in all the electronics and to make sure that it was going to survive being



stored for the last 20 plus years. It worked flawlessly and is now in Jeremy's Shack. It not just going to sit there and look pretty its going to be used! The first contact made with the 520 was to PJ2/K8ND in Curacao. Since then Jeremy has check into the Tuesday and Thursday night net on 10m and work a new country 3DA0NJ in Swaziland. Jeremy says it's a fun radio and is really fun to tune up the transmitter rather than just click the dx spot on the computer and have the TS570 do all the work. Now to get some accessories for it maybe a second vfo or cw filter.

CB competitions: “Gotta make it swing”

By Kevin Sanders K0KDS

Amateur radio has Field Day.

CB has keydowns.

What’s a keydown? I too scratched my head the first time I heard it. When I clicked on over to Google to find out more, I didn’t find much on the subject due to outdated websites and broken links, apparently because 90% of CB users online used the now-defunct Geocities to host their sites. When I did stumble upon a site with information, I was wading hip-deep into the cesspool that is CB slang. I had to veer off the course to find out what words like “mudduck” “Watergate tapes” “two-pill” and “swing” meant. By then, I was in too deep to not find out what the hell a keydown competition is. After all, they had their own rap song and music video about this hobby.

After I spent a few late nights delving into CB radio culture, I was intrigued at the pieces of the puzzle I put together. Apparently, keydown competitions are where CB users gather at an outdoor location, typically in the southern states, to show off their rigs with fellow hobbyists. The rigs are usually early-model dark-colored Chevy Suburbans outfitted with a CB radio, amplifiers that sometimes occupy the entire vehicle cabin, and usually a very large vertical antenna array attached to the front bumper via a heavy-duty steel beam. These outfits require so much power that the engines are upgraded to include four or more alternators. These rigs are clearly intended to transmit with more than the 4 watts of power that is allowed by the FCC.

So what’s the point of a keydown competition? Contestants compete two at a time by parking at a line side-by-side, very much like the starting line for a drag racing competition. Contestants are given directions and a CB channel to tune to. The “flagger” — the person that signals the start of the competition — will raise his or her hands to signal the beginning of the competition (and to begin keying using full power) and then will lower his or her hands to signal that the competition is over and to stop keying. The loser of the competition can request his or her competitor for a rematch.

While the contestants are keying down, each contestant usually yells his or her handle into the radio (usually resulting in over-deviation). The winner of the competition is decided by which contestant can be heard over the radio, as identified by the handle they were yelling into the radio or another identifier (the winner in the embedded video above was identified by saying ONE ONE ONE repetitively). The more power, the better.

In the case that neither contestant was heard, there is usually one person designated to keep an official “Watergate tape,” which means that person records the audio of the competition. Whichever contestant is heard on the Watergate tape wins. No other tapes can be accepted as a Watergate tape.

A frame grab from a keydown video. Excessive RF caused audio bleedover into the video camera and caused image distortion before the RFI forced the camera to eject the VHS tape and shut the camera's power off.

No doubt that spectators in the vicinity will get sterilized by the thousands of watts of power that their reproductive organs are being exposed to during competition. In a lot of the competitions, the sheer abundance of RF produced by both competitors can cause interference to video cameras, and in some cases, will force the video cameras to eject the tape and power down.

What does the winner receive? Depending on the event, the winner will receive a cash reward or a trophy, but he or she will always win the bragging rights. There are indeed contestants with targets on their backs — the Brett Favre, the A-Rod, the Dale Earnhardt of CB radio. “Sha Sha,” “Blue Gill,” and “T-Bird” seem to be the people to beat. You can view a video of Sha Sha beating T-Bird here.

While a lot of my colleagues in the amateur radio community can easily discount CB’ers (or “chickenbanders” as they may affectionately call them), generally, the engineering and creativity that keydown contestants surprised me. The know-how required to modify radios, amplifiers, and vehicle engines to achieve such outrageously illegal accolades is impressive. I don’t condone violating FCC regulations, I’m not the one doing such things, but really, I was surprised to see this level of engineering. That’s just my opinion, and I’m sure that my amateur radio buddies are grinding their teeth right now reading this.

Regardless, I found this activity intriguing because of it’s simplicity and relative unfamiliarity here in the northern states. It would be interesting to see these vehicles and to watch a few competitions — but I would have to bring a lead apron along.

Taken from Kevin Sanders blog at <http://kevin.sanders.io/2010/cb-radio-keydown> There is even a video on there of one of the competitions.

AARC Club Gossip!

Did you know that...

- ...KD8VSQ now checks into the 10m SSB AND CW nets?
- ...during the next month K8AQM will be V47TR, Feb 13-20?
- ...W8ATE is considering a K3s or Flex radio?
- ...KE8CEW is the new "tube sign" wizard?
- ...K8UV has a 1918 Navy straight key?
- ...K8AQM will be a presenter at the International DX Convention in Vasalia, CA?
- ...the W8TQE 440 machine is back-up and running FB?
- ...KD8VSQ has a "like-new" TS-520s...and he knows where the heater switch is?
- ...K8KIC, NU8Z, KD8VSQ and KD8SKO will be in this month's Straight Key Sprint?
- ...KD8TTM has "lost" HF bands? "Oh where oh where have they gone?" ,says Bill
- ...the world needs to be made "Stanley proof"(W8ATE)?
- ...KD8VSQ is learning geography, he now knows "South Sandwich Island" is actually south?
- ...KG8CO is killing 160m with new worked countries?
- ...KB8MXX is recovering well from his surgery? Yea!

AARC Club Minutes

No minutes for December because the meeting was called off due to poor weather conditions.

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 submissions for the Tickler please contact [Jeremy KD8VSQ](mailto:Jeremy.KD8VSQ) and it will be included in the next months issue of the tickler.

Join us on Facebook! Follow the URL below and click the "Like" button and what ever we post will be shared instantly with all club members.

<http://www.facebook.com/w8tqe>

Adrian Amateur Radio Club

President

Virginia Schutte, **W8TTX**
w8ttx@yahoo.com

Vice President

Bob Warwick, **K2IBM**
k2ibm@comcast.net

Secretary

Beth Cruz, **KF7WDC**
bethcruz@comcast.net

Treasurer

Mark Hinkleman, **NU8Z**
nu8z@comcast.net

Executive Board

Norman Schutte, **W8TTH**
norm@normsfab.com

Bill Van Houten, **KD8TTM**
z.billy@gmail.com

Stan Waldrup, **W8ATE**
w8ate@laseritup.com

Tickler Editor

Jeremy Downard, **KD8VSQ**
jeremyad@gmail.com

Weekly AARC Nets

Sunday Night 2 Meter AARC ARES Net at 8 pm on the W8TQE Repeater 145.370 – pl 85.4
Net Control - Bill KD8TTM

Tuesday and Thursday CW / SSB 10 Meter Nets
10 Meter CW Chat starts at 8 pm on 28.050 +/- QRM
10 Meter SSB Char Starts at 9 pm 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 38th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

September 13, 2015
Hamfest Chair
Mark nu8z@comcast.net

AARC Web Page and E-mail Reflector

Website: www.w8tqe.com
Email: adrianarc@mailman.qth.net

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.