



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 20, Number 4, April 2004

USECA Has Moved!

USECA has a new mailing address. All mail correspondence should be mailed to:

USECA
P.O. Box 46331
Mt. Clemens, MI 48046

This new information has been updated on our application and return mail address from this issue forward.

A Real Aerial Performer

Dick, AF8X

Last summer while out on a Lark In The Park activity with Walt, WB8E, Paul, AA8OZ showed up and proceeded to assemble his antenna: A long wire supported by a kite that lifted it darn near straight up! I've never seen a kite fly at such a steep vertical angle before and was really impressed. Seeing how Paul's antenna worked, I was anxious to learn more about it. This is what I found.

Actually kite supported antennas is not a new idea, but the latest technology in kite design makes it a whole lot easier. Over one hundred years ago the first trans-Atlantic radio transmission by Marconi was from an antenna pulled aloft by a kite. The World War II "Gibson Girl" box kite was part of a kit placed in life rafts in the hopes that downed airmen could use it to raise an antenna and call for help.

—Continued on Page 8

Thank You!

Many thanks to Dave Hill (WD8KLJ) owner of Hillcraft Electronics LLC and a Radio Shack dealer in Imlay City who donated to our club, a brand new, in the box, UHF 440 hand held radio.

The radio was raffled at our March meeting and the lucky winner was Scott, WN1B.

Thanks Dave!

Portable Antennas

Dick, AF8X

This is written for those of you who have not experienced the fun and excitement of operating portable out in the park or from your cottage on the lake, etc.

The amount of enjoyment from operating portable is closely related to the amount of success you achieve. Aside from the rig and batteries, your antenna is going to make the difference in a waste of time or working the world.

The antennas that I like to use in the field are 1. The MP-1, a tunable vertical that is the easiest to deploy. 2. A ½ wave end fed wire, and 3. The mono band delta loop.

The MP-1 is a very good little antenna that works well and is easily clamped to anything available from a picnic table to just a stake in the ground. It comes complete with a set of radial wires, clamp and bracket to fit almost any situation. The antenna breaks down into small length pieces easy to carry if hiking or biking.

—Continued on Page 8

"Your" Corkboard

Joe, K8OEF

This is YOUR corkboard; not mine; I'm just the messenger/manager.

The Corkboard is for club members only; and it's FREE!

Don't hesitate to send me the "stuff" you want on that page.

In the beginning we only had radio items; then later included "Misc." offerings—in the past we've had vehicles, TVs and you can see, Tom, KC8LOC has tools for sale.

Here's the pitch

When you list things on the "Traders Net" on Sundays, how many people check in? Or, how many are listening? (I have no idea.) Even if it gets mentioned at a club meeting, how many potential buyers listen?

BUT, if you put your listing on USECA's Corkboard it is mailed to close to 200 buyers. Then, there is another indeterminable number of viewers—every current corkboard page is put on our website for the "world" to read. How much better exposure can you get? And, there is no cost involved. "Such a Deal!"

Remember . . . it's here for YOU! Now, aren't you glad you're a member?

New Morse Character

The new Morse character to represent the "@" symbol is:

• - - • •

or "Di-dah-dah-di-dah-dit" (A and C grafted together).

It's the first new character to be added by the ITU to the international Morse character set in more than 50 years.

Next Meeting — April 13

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Jim Wickstrom/W1IK (586) 771-4135
 Vice President Dave Cunningham/KC8IAQ, (586) 791-2720
 Recording Secretary Ann Manor/KT8F, (586) 751-3893
 Treasurer Delphine Wrona/KC8JSH, (586) 791-4669
 Membership Secretary Mary Cunningham/KC8IAP, (586) 791-2720
 Past President Nancy Carr/KB8QMS, (586) 749-3383

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Madison/WN1B (248) 628-4756
 Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
 Jerry Radcliffe/N8KLX (586) 731-9041



COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison Phil/W8IC (586) 751-3893
 Awards Manager Tom/KC8LOC (248) 542-3340
 Door Prizes Dina/N8YJI (586) 825-6182
 Editor Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
 Field Day Chair Jerry/N8KLX (586) 731-9041
 Health & Welfare Charlene Gracey (586) 777-2954
 Historian Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
 Liaisons George/K8GEO & Mike N5WCS
 Mailers/Sorters Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
 Net Manager Brian/KC8DIR (586) 749-4561
 Photographer Richard/K8QLM (586) 731-4475
 Program Director Dave/KC8IAQ, (586) 791-2720
 Public Relations Officer Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
 Refreshments Don/KC8CPT & Richard/KC8HJM
 Repeater Trustee Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
 Swap & Shop Scott/WN1B (248) 628-4756
 Technical Director Floyd/W8RO (248) 391-6660
 Technicians WN1B; K8FT; WA8GQL; KC8IAQ; W1IK;
 N8KLX; AD8S; N8SA
 VE Testing Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

Scott/WN1B* Jim/W1IK* Nancy/KB8QMS*
 Dennis/W8DFG* Mark/W8IR Floyd/W8RO*
 Dave/KC8IAQ* Joe/K8OEF* Dave/AD8S
 Phil/W8IC* Joe/N8OZ*

PROGRAMMERS

Dennis/W8DFG Dave/KC8IAQ Mark/W8IR

SILENT KEYS

Len Czapiewski/K8DHH Stuart Satrun/KW8K Vance Dupuis/WB8QNI
 Art Sheff/WD8EGV Rick Parady/KB8KLW Dave Martin/W8VB
 Joe Lucido/NU8F John Moore/KA8KTV Harry Young/W8VRW
 Charles Smith/N8FWF John Palmer/WD8LBH Velma Ragon/N8YVC
 Clarence Ringo/W8HQO Joe Palson/WD8MFN John Tomlins/KG8YX
 Joe Steel/KA8IZM John Pizzuti/WB8NHT

f=Founder c=Charter h=Hon. Charter

N8AWV h	N8HCT f c	WB8OSF h
KA8BDG c	KA8IZM f c SK	K8QLM f c
N8BK h	KA8KTV f c SK	WB8QNI c SK
N8FDN c	G. Manquardt h	KA8VYV h
N8FNO f c	WD8MFN f c	WA8VZZ c SK
J. Haubner c	WB8NHT f c SK	

Michigan's . . .

BEST-IN-CLASS!

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

Congrats to Jerry, K8CFY! Jerry received his certificate from "The Old Timers Club." Jerry has contributed SIXTY-ONE years of wireless communications. Details will be in the next *Express*.

Speaking of the next *Express*, there will be a detailed cost breakdown of how much of your dues pay for the printing and mailing of this award-winning newsletter. We're good, but not cheap. (Brace yourself!)

Don't forget, when you read the *Express* from our web page, you will see the full, colorized version. If I can maintain the schedule, I try to complete the *Express* no later than the Sunday after the general meeting. I place the announcement on the repeater's DVR after the most current version is uploaded to our web page—normally on Sunday morning.

73 for now.



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Hamvention® 2004

"Year of the Contact"

GRASS ROOTS POLITICAL ACTION FORUM

There will be a forum at noon on Friday May 14th of the Hamvention this year on grassroots political action.

The program will feature ARRL General Counsel and our man in DC Chris Imlay, W3KD, New England Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF and ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP as speakers. Great Lakes Division Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT will be the MC and Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver K8JE will offer the opening remarks.

This forum was called by your Division Leadership to bring attention to the importance of communicating with your legislators on amateur radio issues. They have gathered experts to answer your questions. President Haynie and General Counsel Imlay have spent more time lobbying in Washington than anyone in recent history and they have the knowledge to teach us how to get action.

This is a MUST SEE Forum and we would recommend that you ask your club members to attend and to kick of an effort within your clubs. No one will do this for us, we must act now to protect our spectrum and protect our ability to enjoy the Amateur Radio Service.

If you have not met President Haynie, or heard him speak, you have missed a real treat. Here's your opportunity to meet the people that work for you as a League Member. Plan to be there.

Volunteers Needed!

George, K8GEO

VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS are needed for Northeast Oakland County siren testing.

On the first Saturday of the months of March thru November, the 200 plus early warning "bad" weather sirens are sounded throughout Oakland County at 1:00 p.m.

If you would like to participate as an observer to see, hear, and report if sirens "went off" in the communities of Auburn Hills, Troy, Rochester Hills, Rochester, Oakland Twp., and Addison Twp., please contact me at (248) 393-4030.

If you are currently participating in the siren test sub-net in some other corner of Oakland County, do continue with that group.

Participation in this program is a significant contribution towards community services expected of FCC ham license holders.

You don't have to be available every month. The pool of volunteers for Northeast Oakland County will be contacted to see who will be available for that month's tests and assignments will be made accordingly.

How much time does it involve? Certainly less than a couple of hours monthly including travel time.



USECA Board Meeting Minutes—March 2, 2004

In attendance:

W1IK, Jim	President
KC8IAQ, Dave	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KC8IAP, Mary	Membership Secretary
KC8JSH, Delphine	Treasurer
WN1B, Scott	Board Member
W8DFG, Dennis	Board Member
N8KLX, Jerry	Board Member
KB8QMS, Nancy	Past President



*Absent

Meeting called to order by the President at: 7:39 PM.

Motion to accept the minutes of the last BOD meeting made by Nancy, 2nd by Scott, WN1B, motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Delphine, motion to accept by Dennis. 2nd by Jerry, N8KLX, motion carried.

Membership: Mary, KC8IAP – 173 members.

Webmaster: Dave, KC8IAQ – reported on the website. Ed, W8EDS will be handling USECA events part of the website. Dennis, W8DFG has the password to change the biography of the QRZ call sign.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – investigating the possibility of changing the printer.

Technical director – Floyd, W8RO – nothing to report.

ARRL – report given by Phil, W8IC on recent events.

Trustee Report: given by Dennis, W8DFG.

FD – Jerry, N8KLX: Dave, KC8TTQ provided designs for this year's t-shirts. Will use Jim's site again this year. The filters approved at the last general meeting have not yet been purchased, pending Jerry's request that anyone already owning one can sell it back to the club. FD co-chairs are needed.

Swap: Scott reported that we have received ARRL approval.

Health and Welfare – report provided by Walt, WB8E.

Club liaisons: George, K8GEO provided a report.

Old Business:

Dennis, W8DFG reported on the recent spaghetti social.

Post office Box: Set up in Mt Clemens, keys to be held by Dennis, W8DFG and Mary, KC8IAP. Address: PO box 46331, Mt Clemens, 48046.

Dennis, W8DFG has obtained a permanent license plate for the club trailer.

Badges: Brian, KC8DIR has located a new badge vendor. Price: \$6.00 for the main badge and \$4.00 each for the hanging identifiers.

New Business:

Bob Corr, KC8YWH provided information on bulk mailing options.

Audit to be done by the Board Directors and Delphine.

Joe, K8OEF discussed an idea for a fund-raiser.

Floyd, W8RO requested that a policy manual be written. He volunteered to head up the committee. Bob Corr, volunteered to be on the committee.

Dennis, W8DFG stated the Elks requested that the club provide kitchen help and cooking for the summer Elk's steak-out.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary



USECA General Meeting Minutes—March 9, 2004

In attendance:

W1IK, Jim	President
KC8IAQ, Dave	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KC8IAP, Mary	Membership Secretary
*KC8JSH, Delphine	Treasurer
WN1B, Scott	Board Member
W8DFG, Dennis	Board Member
N8KLX, Jerry	Board Member
KB8QMS, Nancy	Past President

*Absent

Meeting called to order by the President at: 7:40 PM.

Introductions made. Visitors welcomed, upgrades recognized.

Minutes: Last month's minutes stated in error that the meeting was held by the Vice-President. It was in fact conducted by the President. Motion then made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by KC8TTQ and 2nd by N5WCS, motion carried.

No Treasurer's report.

Membership: Mary, KC8IAP: 176 members. Let Mary know if you have a change of address.

Webmaster: Dave, KC8IAQ provided report.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – needs articles. Please use the corkboard to buy/sell your items. Thanks to Mary and Dave for all their work on the roster.

Technical report: Floyd, W8RO – let the interference or tech committee know if you hear any interference.

ARRL: Phil, W8IC reported on recent updates. Also provided Skywarn Training dates, including Saturday, April 3 at Freedom Hill, 9:00 AM.

Field Day: Jerry, N8KLX stated the club is willing to buy back any ICE filters. If there are none forthcoming, he will purchase the filters for FD. It will be held at Jim, N8MCD's farm. Station chairs are needed.

Swap: Scott, WN1B looking for volunteers, particularly one to coordinate the seminars.

—Continued on Page 6

The Balun

HAM RADIO IS about learning, and sharing what you learn, it's something I like to do. I hope this can help others who may be struggling with "hobby funding". Just keep in mind, sometimes the simplest answer, is the best answer.

For several years, I've used a simple home made dipole using a home made center insulator, electric fence "dog bones" and antenna wire from "the Shack". Everything worked fine. But, all this stuff about baluns, coax, ladder line, etc. made deciding how to make the best functional, low cost antenna a real chore.

Ok, my simple 126' horizontal dipole, (63 feet each side) center fed (pvc pipe cap and plug with so-239 and screws) with RG8-X (so it would be light weight being end supported) worked fine from 6m to most of 160, it even found sweet spots on 2m. go figure. I even put up some for my friends, all with close to the same good results.

Then it happened. My friend Mike K7JML, (a fictitious name and call) called, said his radio worked horribly, except on 80m, he was really frustrated. So after some research, checking coax, connections etc, I found he had modified the dipole we put up with a really nice new 80m BALUN.

Ok, new center insulator shouldn't make much difference, but it did. Now this simple, and very functional dipole, didn't function except on 80m. The really bothered

me. So, I started asking questions, and got some really good answers, this one I like best:

"Baluns: Some swear by them, others at them. Do you need one, Nope."

Here are the answers I got.

Personally, I do not have a balun. What I did was (in fact all my antennas) wind an RF Choke at the antenna end of the coax. Wind maybe 6-8 turns of RG-213 (or whatever you are using) about a foot below the dipole center insulator. If you make the 6-8 turns maybe 8-12 inches in diameter and tape it together then let it drop down. Leave an extra 3-4 feet of coax in your feed line and wind the coil—this is an RF Choke. Some of the ARRL handbooks show this also.

A Balun does not "eliminate" RF. What the balun does, as Glen (K9STH) and other have pointed out is convert the unbalanced Coax to a balanced antenna. In the process of conversion RF is Not really eliminated, just put somewhere else.

A dipole is a balanced antenna. Period. However people for eons have used coax to feed a dipole. A dipole, by definition is about 70 ohms. RG-8/58/213 is 50 ohm stuff. TV coax, RG-6/59 is 75 ohm and in reality is a better match for a dipole than the 50 ohm stuff. But, that said, people for eons have used 50 ohm coax. The resulting SWR mismatch is on the order of 1.3:1 so...it can be said also...so what. No

big deal at all. It will work either way and work just as well either way.

In older days, we used to feed a dipole with 72 ohm feedline (like a zip cord) and then at the shack end, install a Heathkit Balun and then RG-8 to the antenna relay. Most rigs did not have built in antenna changeover relays until later on. 72 ohm coax, twin lead or any open wire feeder has its own problems in mounting. You just don't mount it like coax, twisted to the mast or antenna support. It has to be "stood off" from the mast and antenna. Hence the name of "Stand Off's" that you see in pictures.

However, that is ancient history. Glen (K9STH) and many others on QRZ and QTH as well, have tried to answer your questions about baluns. I think that Tex (WAOKZL) did a pretty good job also. I have known Tex for years.

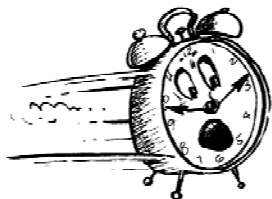
Do you need one? Nope. Some swear by them, others at them.

However, if you are running a single wire, and want it to operate multiband, forget the balun. Period.

I run a dipole that has wires for 20/40/80 and it works just fine. No balun. Period No Balun. I do have an RF Choke (Coil) but no balun. If you want to run balanced line (450 ohm) then it would be desirable to have a balun, but at the bottom end of the feed chain, not at the antenna.

73, Bill, WOLPQ

—Submitted by Arpad, WY8M



*Spring Ahead
Sunday
April 4th*



Club Liaison Column

Mike, W5WCS and George, K8GEO

In this monthly column we will strive to bring you information about other radio club's swaps and other activities where they may need additional volunteer help to carry out the event. So bear with us, we are still feeling our ways to how best to bring information to you.

Events & Activities

April 17

Milford Swap at Milford High School; 2380 Milford Rd. Talk-in on 145.49 (67 Hz PL), 146.55 simplex as back-up.

April 25

USECA WalkAmerica, Metropolitan Beach Park, contact Dennis, W8DFG to volunteer.

June 6

Chelsea Swap at the Fairgrounds.

June 13

Diabetes Tour de Cure bicycle ride at Island Lake Park. Contact Jeff, n8wr@arrl.net or phone (248) 642-3608. You will not have to "ride a bike" to participate.

June 20

Monroe Ham & Computer Swap at the Fairgrounds.

July 17 & 18

Multiple Sclerosis Society, 150 mile bike tour from northern Oakland County to East Lansing on Saturday and return on Sunday. Assignments include morning rest stop, riding in staff cars, picking up fatigued riders, etc. You will not ride a bicycle. Contact Jeff, n8wr@arrl.net or phone (248) 642-3608 for more information.

August 6-8

Tawas Point, Lighthouse Contest. Contact Gary Sular, K8IKW (248) 592-0604.

August 21

Woodward Dream Cruise. This is a fantastic event to support. Oakland County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp. (ARPSC) will coordinate hams. Contact George, k8geo@arrl.net or (248) 393-4030 for additional details.

August 22

Lapeer Ham & Computer Swap at Lapeer Center Building; talk-in on 146.620.

September 11

GRA Hamfest (Grand Rapids Area Hamfest), Forest Hills Northern High School; 147.26 (94.8 Hz PL) or 146.54 simplex for talk-in.

If you have information about some amateur radio event that we have missed, please contact either of us.



Meeting Minutes—From Page 4

Interclub Liaisons – George, K8GEO reported. Volunteers are needed to provide communications at the Woodward Dream Cruise, August 21. Also, the MS 150 mile bike tour – July 17 and 18. He also listed Oakland County Skywarn classes that are available. Contact George for info.

Health and Welfare: Walt, WB8E stated cards are being sent to members in the hospital.

Contact Brian, KC8DIR, or Laura if you want a club badge.

New Business:

Dennis, W8DFG discussed Walk-America, to be held April 25, at Metro Beach. We provide communications for the March of Dimes sponsoring the walk. A 2-day special event station will be set up, using the call W8A. Contact Jerry, N8KLX for info if you want to run a station. The Walk starts at 9 AM, but you need to get there by 7:30 AM. Dennis also informed the club that the club P.O. Box has been moved from Sterling Hts. to Mt Clemens. P.O. Box 46331, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046.

Dave, KC8TTQ has several designs to consider for this year's FD T-shirt. You can view them on the website. You are welcome to submit your own design for consideration.

We need a chairperson for the summer picnic.

The business portion of the meeting was concluded at 8:20 PM.

The presentation was provided by Floyd, W8RO, on the Hammond Radio Museum.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary



Lemon Custard Cake

This is one of my all time favorite deserts. This is a good desert for those hot summer days or when you develop the taste for it. Take my word you will develop a taste for it. It doesn't take long to prepare once you have all the ingredients. But it tends to be on the expensive side depending on your point of view. I have only had the cherry flavored one but I'm sure the strawberry would hit the spot just the same.

- 1 prepared angel food cake (10")
- 1 pkg (3.4oz) instant lemon pudding
- 1 ½ cups cold milk
- 1 cup (8oz) sour cream
- 1 can (21oz) cherry or strawberry pie filling

Tear angel food cake into bite size pieces. Place in a 13" x 9" x 2" pan. In a mixing bowl combine the pudding mix, milk and the sour cream. Beat until thickened, about 2 minutes. Spread this mixture over cake. Spoon pie filling on top. Chill until serving time. Yield: 12-16 servings

I just want to add that I'm still looking for recipes of all kind. I have not gotten one recipe since my first request in last months USECA Express. Please take the time to send me some recipes. If you don't cook or don't have a recipe there has to someone that cooks for you. Please take the time to ask them for a copy of your favorite recipe then email it to me. kc8ttq@yahoo.com
David, KC8TTQ

Dear ARRL Affiliated Club Editor:

We will again run a newsletter contest and have the winner of the Michigan Section compete with the winners of Ohio and Kentucky for a Great Lakes Division champion. Last year L'Anse Creuse won with the "Tuned Circuit."

I have attached a copy of the rules and recommendations made by Scott Yonally, the Public Information Coordinator from Ohio. Since Mr. Yonally would be handling the Great Lakes Division contest, I recommend that your club's editor and club officers follow the recommendations that he has named in the attached article.

We will again be judging Michigan's contest in the fall and the winner will be named at our state convention (the club that will be running the convention has not been named as yet). The winner will then be entered into the Great Lakes Division contest. I will let you know more information as I receive it.

Please send all entries to myself, Sandy Mondro, at kg8hm@arrl.net or to my home address: 800 Dover, Dearborn Hts., MI 48127. Let me know which editions you want entered into the contest.

I will need two editions, preferably a spring and/or summer edition.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sandy Mondro, KG8HM

Affiliated Clubs Coordinator

ARRL, Michigan Section

CONTEST RULES AND HOW TO JUDGE

An eligible newsletter must be regularly published at least four (4) times per year and be a recognized Amateur Radio organization within their state. I want to emphasize this one most of all. They have to be written on a regular basis. This keeps the chances of someone coming in with a one time professionally written newsletter and taking it all.

Each organization submitting a newsletter for the contest must enter at least two (2) issues for judging. This also keeps the integrity up.

Electronic (or Web based) produced newsletters may also enter. However, they must represent their printed newsletter in all formats. This is to ensure uniformity. (I added this one several years ago when many of the smaller clubs around Ohio had complained to me that the contest, as it was, weighted itself to the larger clubs that could afford professional printing. I have one club that actually prints a 20 page newsletter in glossy waxed heavy weighted paper that looks better than some of the professionally produced flyers that you can obtain at trade shows. They weren't reporting anything any better than the next guy. It just presented itself better because it was on a professional printed level.)

Non-amateurs, in the Public Relations industry have done the judging. They judged on following criteria:

Style (15%), which means newsletter design of all pages. I have a graphic designer look at all of them for this one. He's critical, but fair.

Content (35%), this is the amount of useful information contained within the newsletter. This one is a more tough one, but I usually fill them in on the major events of the year. Like the Morse Code stuff and what it means to hams around the country.

Service to members (35%) means the amount of information using individual member's names. This is easy. Most articles written by local folks use local names and so forth.

Clarity of presentation (15%) which means readability of the newsletter including accuracy of spelling and grammar. This one speaks for itself. If it's difficult to read and follow, its readability is low. I usually let the individual editors know personally when they've reached a point where the judges had to be awakened back up or have just started crying because it's just too difficult to read.

For the most part, I've found that 90% of the newsletters have improved over the years. There are still a few that will probably never get the idea, no matter how bad their score is, but this you will have no matter what.

Scott Yonally

Public Information Coordinator

Ohio Section

A Real Aerial—From Page 1

For starters, never use the antenna wire in lieu of kite string, if the kite should break loose the trailing wire could cause havoc if dragged over power lines. A good way to rig the antenna is shown in the drawing borrowed from G4VGO. It shows how the kite antenna is rigged. The quarter inch bungee cord is about six feet long to take the stress of the kite jerking on the kite line. Use 150 pound fishing swivels at both ends of the bungee cord, and a two-foot heavy nylon fishing line then goes from the bungee swivel to the antenna wire. Remember to leave a little bit of wire (12 inches or more) hanging from the swivel attach point to keep high voltage away from the line. Heavy electrical tape or small round plastic curtain rings can hold the wire to the kite line.

For the actual antenna wire, use 14 AWG insulated flexiweave, or insulated multi-conductor 16 gauge depending on the lifting power of the kite. Subject to conditions, your antenna can build up a huge charge of static electricity. This charge can damage your equipment, or yourself. The remedy: Install a resistor between the bottom of the antenna and a ground rod to bleed off this static charge. Try a 10,000 ohm power resistor, e.g. if you have a half-watt transmitter, use a resistor rated at 1 watt. Some people prefer to use a radio-frequency choke instead of a resistor. The 10K resistor will provide a constant bleed for static electricity, but will not noticeably degrade the signals.

The antenna being an end fed wire will need an impedance matching network to tune the desired frequency. Also a counterpoise system would be desirable if using anything more or less than a half wave on the operating frequency.

As for the lifter, Paul uses a high performance Delta design kite that does a good job and flies at an acute angle. There are many other designs that will do the job. A catalog of all types of kites can be found at www.intothewind.com.

Portable Antennas—From Page 1

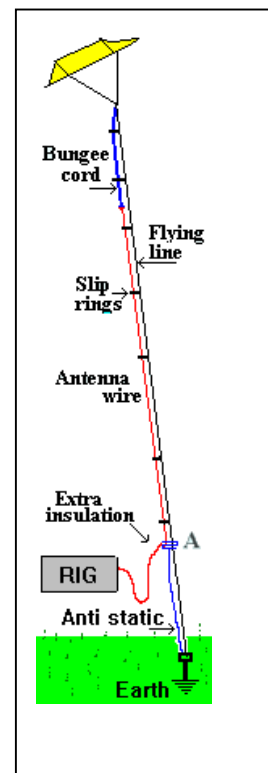
The ½ wave end fed wire is a very good low cost antenna and no feed line is used. I connect it directly to the rig with the on-board tuner or to an outboard tuner with other rigs. The tuner is necessary to match the feed point impedance of the antenna, which is several thousand ohms, to the 50-ohm input of the radio. There are other methods of matching, but this is the simplest. I have ½ wave wires cut for 20, 30, and 40 meters; each measured and cut using the formula $468/\text{frequency}$ in MHz. A counterpoise is not required by ½ wave antennas, however some hams have said using a counterpoise enhances it's function. During my operation, I have not found this to be true. These wires are obviously mono band antennas. If a multi-band, random length wire (sometimes incorrectly called a long wire¹) using an antenna tuner is preferred, it should be cut at a length that is not resonant on any band. See chart.

The third antenna and my favorite when I have the time and energy along with a support up about 20 feet, is the full wave Delta Loop. As this is a full wave, I chose 20 meters as the band of choice, making the antenna small enough to easily handle and erect. The loop is directional and polarization is either vertical or horizontal depending on the feed point location. This antenna is very quiet compared with vertical antennas. My article, "Lark in the Park Antenna" published in an earlier issue of the *Express* has all the details needed to construct a delta loop.

These lengths are non-resonate on bands from 3.5 to 29.7						
15.0	27.5	39.5*	58.0	76.0	96.0	145.0

- Widest non-resonate range.

¹ A long wire = $>2\lambda$



USECA Cork Board

▶ **Radio Items** ◀

MFJ-713, 2 meter HT intermod filter. Like to run your HT mobile but can't stand the intermod? This thing really works. \$40. KC8LOC, Tom, home: (248) 542-3340; work: (586) 576-3314 or email: kc8loc@yahoo.com.

★ROCKMITE for sale: 20 mtr. and 30 mtr. Vectronics mw. transceivers \$25.00 each. Dick Arnold, (586) 791 3595. *[See picture on this page.]*



▶ **Miscellaneous Items** ◀

★IMATION SuperDisk 120MB Parallel Port Drive. Will trade for anything for which I can find a use. Dick Arnold (586) 791 3595.

SNAP-ON KR1100 upper tool chest, very large (l-53", w-22", h-18", fits KRL1000 roll cabinet, 9 roller bearing drawers, would make nice bench top box \$1000. KC8LOC, Tom, home: (248) 542-3340; work: (586) 576-3314 or email: kc8loc@yahoo.com.

TOSHIBA Laptop computer 486 Satellite with Canon Jet Printer. \$130. Hewlett-Packard Color Printer Deskjet 560C. \$35. Bapco safety analyzer 120v to 220v test for ground on any product. \$125. Sony car stereo, AM/FM cassette with Sony CD 10 Disc Changer \$140. KC8QIC, Denny, (586) 268-7417.

★New or changed this month.
Notify the editor to have items added and/or removed.

This Cork Board is for club members only and it's free!

USECA Cork Board On The Web

Every month, this page is uploaded to our web page for the "whole world" to view.

Don't hesitate to list your wants and/or needs—you never know who will be reading it.

And, the best part, it costs you (members) *NOTHING!*

★**FOR SALE**

ICOM IC-756 PRO-II – Top of the line HF radio, LCD multi-color screen display with spectrum analyzer, MARS/CAP modified for general coverage transceiver, IF DSP, great condition, clean, non-smoker, more info at www.icomamerica.com, box/man-ual/mic/etc.; asking \$2000. Trade + \$\$\$ considered.

COMPUTER STUFF – P-III 600MHz processor w/mboard (board bad, processor good), Elsa Erazor III 32Mb AGP TNT2 video card, Creative Labs sound card, 3Com 10/100 network card, a complete 386-387 system with keyboard monitor mouse, assorted old 386-486 type stuff; \$\$\$?

OVERHEAD PROJECTOR BULBS (?) – have two new bulbs in the box, one is a 36V-400W, the other a 24V-250W(?); both never touched by fingers directly and both verified for filament continuity; \$4-/each.

CB ANTENNA – abt 26" long, base loaded, base load is tunable with two adjustment rings, 3/8" style mount; \$5.

COMPUTER SPEAKERS – pair of amplified pc speakers, my hearing is still too good & the tiny slight buzz in the background annoys me, they were new and used only 10 minutes; \$8.

CELLPHONE MOBILE PWR CORD – for cellphone with 4.8V battery, DC coaxial plug on phone end; \$5.

POWER SUPPLY – switching PS, 12-15 VDC, 16A, works, you wire it up; \$25.

DUCKIES – UHF duck abt 6" with BNC: \$5, dual band 2M/440 "Icom" style abt 6" with BNC: \$15-, CB black rubber duck right angle PL259: \$5.


K-40 10/11M WHIP – 4' fiberglass, black, tunable, substitute for original K-40 stainless whip & base load, no mount or coax just the antenna; \$4.

Contact Arpad, WY8M at: wy8m@arrl.net or (586) 751-3804 or 147.180 MHz+ 100 Hz PL.



20 Mtr Rockmite

30 Meter Vectronics Transceiver



⊕ **Chairperson—Annual Picnic**
 ⊕ **NCO's and Alternates**
 ⊕ **Memberships: New and Renewals!**

USECA . . . Where Do We Go From Here? — It's Up To YOU!



HANDLES



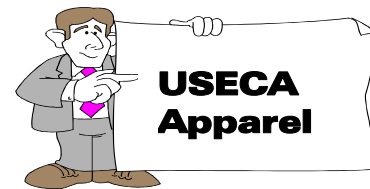
PERSONALS



NAMES

USECA VE Testing

Testing will be the **FIRST** Thursday **EVERY** month of the year. Joe, N8OZ will have the CVE duty. No pre-registration is needed or wanted. Test Fee is \$12.00. Applicants need copies and originals of CSCE's and/or license. There is no copy machine at the Elks; (there is none close by). Starting time is 7:00 p.m. — please do not arrive earlier. Walk-ins are welcomed. Test site is at the Mt. Clemens Elks, 179 S. Main St., Mt. Clemens. If testing, you must have the following: picture ID (or birth certificate); and a copy of your current license or completion certificates, if any.



Jackets—\$45.00 • Sweatshirts—\$25.00
 Polo Shirts—\$22.00 • Caps—\$6.00
 (2X & 3X—Additional Charge)
Contact: Richard, W8WTH
At Meetings or Phone (586) 791-4669

Net Point System

- ✓1) HF CW NCO = 4 points, HF SSB/VHF NCO = 3 points, HF CW/SSB check-in = 2 points, VHF check-in = 1 point. HF < 30 MHz, VHF > 30 MHz. (NOTE: Check-ins should do so *personally*, proxy check-ins are legitimate *only* for members on club business. "In & Out" check-ins, though allowed, are discouraged.)
- ✓2) Awards are earned for 50 points and multiples thereof. Additional awards for the highest annual HF and VHF scores. Awards are meant to encourage **participation** and can be earned by any licensed amateur.
- ✓3) Net logs must be readable and include the **CALLS** and **NAMES** of check-ins, as well as **NCO**, **DATE**, and **MODE**.
- ✓4) NCO's: Forward net logs to the Awards Manager within 30 days; logs received later will not earn the bonus points normally awarded a NCO. Mail your logs to: Tom, KC8LOC, 26708 Osmun, Madison Heights, MI 48701; or email to kc8loc@k8uo.com.
- ✓5) If you notice any errors in the database, wrong or changed call signs, mis-spelled names, etc., let Tom know ASAP.

The *USECA EXPRESS* is published monthly (except July and August), by the **UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**, of Macomb County, Michigan. Club meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August), 7:30 p.m., local time, at the Elks Club, 179 S. Main (between Church and Robertson), Mt. Clemens, Michigan. *Visitors are always welcome.* Articles for the *EXPRESS* should be submitted to the editor no later than the night of the club meeting for publication in the following month's edition. **The articles within are those of the author and not necessarily endorsed by USECA.** Material contained in the *EXPRESS* may be reprinted provided credit is given to the *USECA EXPRESS* and the author, except material published by permission of a copyright holder. The awards for "Excellent" (1994) and four times "Superior" (1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998) were received from ARNS (Amateur Radio News Service). [Note: ARNS has disbanded.]

USECA APPLICATION



DATE _____ NEW RENEWAL
 CALL _____ CLASS _____ AUTO-PATCH _____
 NAME _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 TELEPHONE # _____ PRINT # IN ROSTER YES NO
 BIRTHDATE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Rev. 3/04 **ARRL** YES NO **RACES** YES NO

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

CALL _____ CLASS _____
 NAME _____
 BIRTHDATE _____

MEMBER: **ARRL** YES NO
RACES YES NO

CALL _____ CLASS _____
 NAME _____
 BIRTHDATE _____

MEMBER: **ARRL** YES NO
RACES YES NO

Annual Membership Dues Regular: \$20 — Family: \$30 — Auto-Patch: \$35 (One Time Fee) + Annual Dues

Applications can be given to the Membership Secretary at monthly meeting or mailed.

Please make check payable to: **USECA — Address: P.O. Box 46331, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046**

(Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.)

USECA reserves the right to accept or reject New or Renewal Memberships.



2-Meter LANs

Local Area Nets

DAY	TIME	CLUB	FREQ.
SUN	1:00 pm	USECA/Information	147.180
SUN	8:00 pm	USECA/Traders/Helpers	147.180
SUN	8:00 pm	SPIRIT of '76	146.760
SUN	9:00 pm	HPARC/DART	146.640
SUN	9:00 pm	Garden City ARC	146.860
SUN-SAT	10:15 pm	S. E. Michigan Traffic Net	145.330
SUN-SAT		MACEOC (Packet)	145.030
MON	7:30 pm	SATERN	147.180
MON	8:00 pm	MECA	147.200
MON	9:00 pm	USECA/Slow Code	147.189
TUE	8:00 pm	USECA/Information	147.180
TUE	9:00 pm	Motor City Radio Club	147.240
WED	8:00 pm	GMARC	146.700
WED	8:00 pm	SPIRIT of '76/Info./Traders	146.760
WED	9:00 pm	ARPSC	145.490
WED	9:00 pm	MICHIGAN QRP	145.170
THU	7:00 pm	HPARC/Kids	146.640
THU	8:00 pm	RACES/ARES	147.200
THU	9:00 pm	ECHO	147.080
FRI	Midnite	USECA/Hoot Owl	147.180

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

WWW.USECA.NET



Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM 147.180 MHz	SUN. 8 PM** 147.180 MHz	TUES. 8 PM 147.180 MHz	FRI. MIDNIGHT 147.180 MHz
WEEK				
1	VA3IDJ	W1IK	K8QLM	-OPEN-
2	KT8F	KC8DBG	-Meeting-	-OPEN-
3	K8QLM	KC8RVF	-OPEN-	KC8DIR
4	W8IR	-OPEN-	W8DFG	-OPEN-
5*	WB8E	-ALT-	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

**Traders/Helper Net

HF NETS

	THURS. 9 PM 21.140 MHz/CW	FRI. 10 PM 21.140 MHz/CW	FRI. 11 PM 28.425 MHz/USB
WEEK			
1	K8QLM	-OPEN-	KC8LOC
2	WY8M	-OPEN-	KA2IBE
3	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	K8QLM
4	-OPEN-	WB8E	-OPEN-
5*	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

*If applicable

NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement or contact Brian, KC8DIR (586) 749-4561—Don't wait!

USECA

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 46331 • Mt. Clemens, MI 48046

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HAPPY EASTER

APRIL 2004

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
APR	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting
APR	25		WalkAmerica
MAY	11	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	14-16		Dayton Hamvention
MAY	22		Pre-Field Day
JUN	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting & Fox Hunt
JUN	25-26		Field Day 2004

Swaps

Day	Month	Date	Where
Fri-Sun	MAY	14-16	Dayton 2004
SUN	JUN	20	Monroe
SUN	OCT	31	USECA

Source: ARRL

6-METER NETS

	WED 7 PM	WED 8 PM
WEEK	50.150 MHz/USB	51.740 MHz/FM
1	-OPEN-	-OPEN-
2	KC8IAQ	K8QLM
3	N8YBY	KC8HYU
4	-OPEN-	-OPEN-
5*	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

*If applicable

NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement or contact Brian, KC8DIR (586) 749-4561—Don't wait!

Name Badges

WITH THE OFFICIAL USECA LOGO
CONTACT LAURA — (586) 749-4561