



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 21, Number 4, April 2005

Pre-Field Day

2005

Ken N8KC

Mark this date on your calendar...Saturday, May 14th — do it now, and circle it in RED! That's the date for our annual USECA Pre-Field Day, now in it's 14th year (the 1st one was in 1992), and you're all invited (this is your first notice!). That's the Saturday prior to the Dayton Hamvention and the one following Mother's Day so you have no excuse for not being there!

Last year we had *incredible* membership participation — I'm hoping to have another "Mobile Antenna Shoot-out" again this year—some of our members are well known for their "big signals" from mobile HF installations. Come on out and see how it's done, how *your* set-up rates, and what it takes to run with *this* crowd.

We've had more than a few of "Phil's Fox Hunts" in the past, and this year will be no exception. He'll be hiding his camouflaged transmitter in the woods and weeds after which, you try to find it, using your equipment or some he'll happily loan you. It's a fun way to learn about RF direction finding and the techniques involved.

We also had quite a number of mobile HF installations present, making Pre-Field Day a good place to look at how others have gone about it and get some ideas on how to do your own.

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2005 MICHIGAN QSO PARTY

Mark NU8Z

ATTENTION Michigan Amateurs. It's that time of year again! Time to start talking about the 2005 Michigan QSO Party. This is a great opportunity to get on the HF bands, have some fun, and represent the great State of Michigan. The organizers of this event would like to see as many Michigan stations on the air as possible. It is the activity of the Michigan stations that make this event a success.

As you can see from the rules listed below, this is only a 12-hour event. Please consider getting on the air for the whole thing, or any portion of the 12-hour period. You can operate from home, portable, or mobile. We again, with the support of mobile stations plan on having activity in all 83 counties.

How about making this a club event? You can submit your individual or multi-op scores under the name of the your club and maybe bring home the club plaque. Hey, why not challenge another local area club or other groups within your club? Are there others in your club that would consider a mini expedition for a portable operation in one of the Michigan counties with minimal activity? Those of you that have been in the QSO Party, please help us get the word out and encourage other Michigan hams to participate and join the fun. The name of the game is to have fun and make Michigan "Radio Active" on April 16th. Hope to hear you on the air

—Continued on Page 8



Bicycle Mobile

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

Sooner or later most active hams start thinking about operating mobile, pedestrian mobile or bicycle mobile. I admit I am one of those. I started thinking about setting up a bicycle mobile HF station after buying a new mountain bike. During the summer I ride from my house to Metro Park daily, weather permitting, about 12 miles round trip. This would give me ample time to indulge myself in my radio hobby while at the same time improving my physical condition.

—Continued on Page 8

Next Meeting — April 12

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Jim Wickstrom/W11K (586) 771-4135
 Vice President Scott Madison/WN1B (248) 628-4756
 Recording Secretary Ann Manor/KT8F (586) 751-3893
 Treasurer Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
 Membership Secretary Ken Cassale/KW8Z (586) 552-8311
 Past President Nancy Carr/KB8QMS (586) 749-3383

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

George Schutte/K8GEO (248) 393-4030
 Joe Kennedy/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
 Fred Holmes/W1SKU (248) 693-3638



COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison Phil/W8IC (586) 751-3893
 Awards Manager Arpad/WY8M (586) 751-3804
 Door Prizes -OPEN-
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 Field Day Chair Phil/W8IC & Ann/KT8F (586) 751-3893
 Health & Welfare Walt/WB8E (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
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 Swap & Shop Bob/KZ8N (586) 716-9114
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 Technicians WN1B; K8FT; WA8GQL; KC8IAQ; W11K; AD8S; N8SA
 VE Testing Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

Scott/WN1B* Jim/W11K* Floyd/W8RO*
 Dennis/W8DFG* Joe/K8OEF* Dave/AD8S
 Dave/KC8IAQ Joe/N8OZ*
 Phil/W8IC* Nancy/KB8QMS*

PROGRAMMERS

Dennis/W8DFG Dave/KC8IAQ

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

This club never ceases to amaze me. Just take a look at the 2005 membership roster. It just, "blows my mind." I think it's an incredible achievement. There are call signs I've never heard on the air; or, even recognize their call signs. Then sadly to say, I hear a few people on the air (some almost every day) who are not a member (nor ever have been). Oh well, it takes all kinds. Again, as stated last month, "Thank you" to all you members.

There will be some upcoming changes to viewing the *Express* on the web. Dave, KC8IAQ is going to make it easier for you "members" who want to view the current editions—there have been some issues in the past that will soon be resolved. Sorry for any inconvenience—but it's worth a look. You will be able to see it earlier than receiving your printed edition and it's in color. I try to put the announcement on the DVR (when it's working) for at least 48 hours when the latest edition is uploaded to the web site. Stay tuned!

73 for now.

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Why QRP?

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

WHEN I WAS FIRST licensed in 1978, I was so enamored with radio in general and CW in particular, every waking moment I either thought about amateur radio or talked about it.

Conditions were wonderful and getting better. It was no problem to work anywhere in the world with 100 watts. I made many, many contacts during the next several years. I had schedules with hams around the world and propagation was such that we rarely missed connections. About that time I found myself becoming bored with HF operation, making contacts seemed as easy as making a phone call; the magic was gone.

I got interested in a new technology: Computers. Home computers were just hitting the market. I had a couple of the early models and quickly became a "quiet key."

For several years I only dusted my station equipment and very rarely turned it on to see if I could still copy CW. Then it happened...I was looking through a friend's radio magazine when I saw an article about QRP. It was kind of interesting that most of the QRP equipment was home-brewed. The only kits at the time were Heathkits. I was mildly interested, but the more I thought about the low cost, the ability to work portable without a ton of equipment needed, intrigued me.

The more I thought about and read more accounts of QRP operation, the more I knew I needed to get into this mode. I sold all my station equipment and recycled the money into QRP related equipment. I was amazed that I could make contacts around the world using only 5 watts. I often got up before sunrise and worked Australia or New Zealand on 40 meters using 5 watts to an inverted-vee antenna. Alas, those days are over now that the solar cycle is near the bottom, but at the time things couldn't be better for QRPers.

If you are bored with your present operation, give QRP a try. QRP is 5-watts out on CW or 10-watts SSB. CW being the more effective mode especially now when conditions are not great. If you have tried it and are not impressed because of a lack of success, either calling CQ or answering CQs, try operating near the end of a contest when the operators are desperate for new contacts. You will be surprised at how well they can hear you during that time.

If you are still a bit skeptical about low power capability, here is something that is the "proof of the pudding." I built a QRPP (less than 1-watt) transceiver kit with an output of 80 mw. The first contact with that rig was New York and a second station in Seattle Washington broke in and gave me a signal report too. After using this and other QRPP rigs I built running less than 1-watt, I went back to my 5 watt rig and it seemed like I was running a KW; I rarely missed making a contact.

After years of operating with some of the QRP rigs on the market, I saw the Elecraft K1¹. I built the kit and it immediately became my favorite rig, until...The KX-1. Another kit by Elecraft, which my XYL was kind enough to buy as a Christmas gift for me. The only thing I crave now is some warm weather so I can go out and play.

If anyone is interested in giving the QRP challenge a try, Walt, WB8E and myself are out in our secret spot at Metro Beach² every week, weather permitting. We would be happy to give any information or advice on QRP, absolutely free!

¹ <http://www.elecraft.com/index.htm>

² Personal watercraft launch area

USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—March 1, 2005

In attendance:

W1IK, Jim	President
*WN1B Scott	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KW8Z, Ken	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
K8GEO, George	Board Member
N8OZ, Joe	Board Member
W1SKU, Fred	Board Member
KB8QMS, Nancy	Past President
*Absent	



Meeting called to order by the President at: 7:36 PM.

Correspondence: Jim, W1IK read a request from the Mad River Radio Club to sponsor a plaque for this year's contest. Motion made by Dennis, W8DFG, to sponsor a prize plaque at a cost of \$65.00. 2nd by Joe, N8OZ, discussion. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the minutes of the last BOD meeting made by Dennis, W8DFG and 2nd by George, K8GEO motion carried.

Treasurer's report provided by Dennis, W8DFG – motion made to accept the 2nd by Joe, N8OZ motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z – 158 members currently.

Webmaster: Dave, KC8IAQ reported on changes he has made to the site. He has upgraded the software and made major changes to the home page, including an index and links to all the info contained on the site for ease of use. He has added some new features and files for uploading, along with file-sharing software. Take a look at the new setup and what is available.

Express: Joe, K8OEF reported on plans for the next Express.

Technical: no report.

ARRL – report given by Phil, W8IC. The spectrum protection act has been reintroduced this year. House bill 691 – contact your congressman. Phil will bring handouts to next meeting.

Trustee Report: given by Dennis, W8DFG.

Field day: Phil, W8IC – no new info at this time. Dennis, W8DFG and Brian, KC8DIR graciously agreed to head up the kitchen again this year; thanks, guys! Look forward to some fine business vittles.

Health and Welfare – Walt, WB8E provide reported on cards sent to ailing members. Please contact Walt if you know of any sick members.

Club liaison: Mike, N5WCS reported.

Net Manager: Brian, KC8DIR – no report. Still looking for new net managers.

Directors of the BOD will do an audit this evening.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.
Respectfully submitted,

Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary



General Meeting—March 8, 2005

In attendance:

W1IK, Jim	President
WN1B Scott	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KW8Z, Ken	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
K8GEO, George	Board Member
N8OZ, Joe	Board Member
W1SKU, Fred	Board Member
*KB8QMS, Nancy	Past President
*Absent	

Meeting called to order by the President at: 7:35 PM.

Introductions were made, new members, visitors and upgrades recognized.

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Dave, W8RIT and 2nd by Bill, N8DMW, motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Dennis, W8DFG and approved. Dennis reported that a complete audit was performed by the BOD members after the last BOD meeting. He plans to have the books audited quarterly. Motion to accept by Steve, N8XO, 2nd by Mike, N5WCS, motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z: 162 members currently.

Website: Jim, W1IK suggested going to www.useca.net to check out the recent changes. Regarding passwords, check with Dave, KC8IAQ.

Express: Joe, K8OEF: Articles due tonight.

ARRL: Phil, W8IC has placed info and a link on our Web Page regarding the Spectrum Protection Act, for contacting your congressman. He reported on other ARRL current events. If you want to join ARRL, see Phil and get an application, so it can go through our club, for a bonus. Phil would like someone to volunteer to take over the ARRL Liaison job, as he holds several other positions.

Swap: Bob, KZ8N will be handling the swap. Date: Sunday, Oct 30.

Inter-Club Liaison reports provided by Mike, N5WCS. See column in this paper. This info can also be found on the USECA Web Page calendar.

Field Day: Phil, W8IC stated that next month's program will be on field day. If you had a station last year, you have first dibs this year. Anyone interested in running a station, contact Phil. If you have any pictures or video clips from previous field days, please provide them to Phil.

—Continued on Page 5

Michigan QSO Party

Dave, W8RIT

USECANS, YOUR PARTICIPATION is wanted for our club's activity in the MI QSO Party that will be held on Saturday, April 16th. We will be operating from Metropolitan Beach Metropark, starting at noon and lasting until the park closes (the contest actually lasts until midnight).

The stations will be at various locations throughout the park. I am organizing club activity in the event. We currently (as of March 9th) have stations for 40M SSB (Dave, W8RIT), 20M SSB (Brad, N8VI), and CW (Walt, WB8E). We also need hams for relief on these bands, so if you want to operate these bands, YOU CAN, I am inviting and encouraging you to do so.

After awhile my throat may be a little hoarse, so I may need to wet the whistle. I am looking for people to set up stations on following bands/modes: SSB 75M, 15M & 10M SSB, as well as CW stations on 80M through 10M (minus the band Walt, WB8E chooses). This will be an ideal time for the hams that do not have HF privileges to operate (with a properly licensed control operator present) and get "their feet wet" with some experience.

Also, for those of you seasoned HF operators to practice your contesting skills and station setup before Field Day. We can also put our club name up in the limelight with this contest also with your help and support. Who knows, maybe you can practice sending code with one hand while logging in the contact on the keyboard with the other, or as Arpad may choose to do...use the other hand raising an "807".

The experienced vets can come out to spread some of their knowledge as well. I hope to operate in the multi-multi class that is newly introduced this year by the Mad River Radio Club who sponsors the event. The Mad River Radio Club has also asked our club to sponsor an award of a presentation of a plaque for a contest category. It would be nice if we were to win it!

If you just can't make it out to Metro Beach for operating portable with us, make a contact with us. Last year I show 2 club members in our log. If you do make other contest contacts during this weekend, please send me your logged contacts for submission as a club entry. We can pool your contacts for our club's credit. The exchange for us to give here in Michigan is the signal report, sequential number and our county. We would receive our signal report, sequential number and either state the receiving station is in (if non-MI), or the county the MI station is in.

I will give some reasons I think might encourage activity as: fun and fellowship of club members, exposing people to our hobby by having some public exposure, contest skill improvement, station/antenna setup, putting our club in the record books. Last year we operated in the multi category and scored 14 out of 16. I feel we would have scored higher if we were not placed in the multi category because we had only one station transmitting and were lumped in with others who had 2 or more stations simultaneously transmitting. We can change that this year with you!

If you are interested in seeing what we did last year see the June [2004] *Express* for our write-up.

This article has been submitted under the wire (behind schedule is probably more accurate) to Joe [K8OEF] for entering it into the newsletter, and my thanks go to him for working with me on this.

For more information see www.miqp.org for all of the latest details. So again a rundown of the vital facts: Saturday, April 16th, noon at Metropolitan Beach Metropark. If you want to contact me, you can e-mail me at w8rit@k8uo.com. **BE RADIOACTIVE! CHIP IN WITH YOUR CLUB.**

Meeting Minutes—From Page 4

Walk-America: Dennis, W8DFG stated that the walk has been moved back a week and will take place the same week as the MS walk. The date of the Walk-America March of Dimes event is Sunday, May 1, at Metro Beach Park. The 2-day annual HF special event station will be held as usual under the callsign W8A. This will occur on both Saturday and Sunday, in the park.

MS walk: Phil, W8IC stated he is organizing the Saturday MS walk in Warren. He will need several volunteers. Butcher School is the location. Contact Phil for more info and to volunteer.

Scott, WN1B, reported on the Ham University – it was a very successful event, 98% pass rate, with several upgrades.

Scott has CD's available. Files can also be uploaded/shared through the community board on the website.

Health & Welfare: Walt, WB8E, reported. Jerry, K8CFY recently had a stroke and all are happy to see that he has recovered.

Pre-Field-Day: May 14, Gladeview A picnic area, Stony Creek Park. Hosted by Ken, N8KC and Denise, KC8IPF. Bring out radio stations and practice operating. The club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, bring a pass-a-dish and your own soft drinks. Folding chairs are suggested. A fox-hunt (hidden transmitter) will be held.

No volunteers to run a summer picnic, so Pre-FD will be considered the summer picnic.

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USECA Club Liaison

Oakland County Skywarn Class Schedule, call (248) 858-5300 to register or Kenneyb@co.oakland.mi.us.

- 7-Apr-05 7:00 PM - 9:15 PM Groveland Township Fire Department, Station #1
21-Apr-05 7:30 PM - 9:45 PM Highland Senior Center
- 16-Apr-05 Macomb County Skywarn Class; 10 AM to 12:15 PM at Freedom Hill.
- 16-Apr-05 Milford ARC Swap-n-Shop, at Milford High School, 2380 Milford Rd. Highland MI.;
www.qsl.net/w8ydx; Talk-in 145.49- 67 Hz PL.
- 30-Apr-05 Warren MS Walk, Contact Phil, W8IC, at w8ic@k8uo.com
- 1-May-05 USECA Walk America: Metropolitan Beach, contact Dennis, W8DFG at w8dfg@k8uo.com.
HPARC MS Walk Birmingham. Contact Phil, AA8KR at aa8kr@arrl.net
HPARC March of Dimes Walk America Contact Jim, K8ABZ
L'Anse Creuse ARC Grosse Pointe MS Walk, Contact Hank, K8TRS at k8trs@juno.com
- 19-May-05 Macomb County Skywarn Class; 7:30 PM at Freedom Hill. (this will be the Macomb County ARPSC regular meeting night.)
- 20-May-05 Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, Ohio
22-May-05
- 4-Jun-05 Oak Apple Run in Royal Oak. Contact Mike, WD8S. wd8s@comcast.net
- 5-Jun-05 Chelsea Ham and Antique Radio Swap. Talk in 145.45. Contact wd8iel@qsl.net.
www.qsl.net/wd8iel
- 12-Jun-05 American Diabetes Association. Tour de Cure at Island Lake State Recreation Area (Brighton).
Contact Jeff Albrecht, N8WR, 248-642-3608
- 18-Jun-05 Midland Amateur Radio Club Hamfest. Midland County Fairgrounds, Midland, MI. Talk in
147.000+. Contact Bill, N8FUZ, (989) 853-4142, or n8fuz@arrl.net. or www.qsl.net/w8kea
- 19-Jun-05 Monroe Hamfest & Computer Show, Monroe County Fairgrounds, M-50 at Raisinville Rd.
Contact Fred VanDaele at (734) 242-9487. www.mcrca.org.
- 4?-Sept-05 L'Anse Creuse ARC Romeo Soccer Tournament

If we have missed anything or some noteworthy event, please let us know.
Our E-Mail addresses are: k8geo@arrl.net and n5wcs@arrl.net

Submitted by George, K8GEO and Mike, N5WCS

STAY RADIOACTIVE!

LED Tip

Dick, AF8X

I CONFESS, I am not an electronic techie type, so I often have to resort to simple means when putting together electronic devices.

I have a hard time remembering how to install LEDs so they work the first time.

Long and short leads, and one side being flat mark the polarity, but who can remember all that anode-cathode business?

An easy way is to set your ohmmeter on a low resistance setting and touch the positive and negative leads to the LED. If it glows you have the correct polarity; remember which was the positive lead and install the LED accordingly—if it doesn't glow, reverse the meter leads and try again.

TeamSpeak 2!

Joe, K8OEF

What do you know about it?

You don't know about it?

Will you ever know about it?

If you are currently on or have been on TS, then "you know."

If you've never been on TS, then, "you don't know."

If you don't look into it or try it, then "you'll never know."

Thanks to Dave, KC8IAQ, you now have a chance to experience it—don't you want to know?

You are personally invited to join! — Voice Over Internet!

What do you need? Simple—a computer; microphone (that's works on that computer), and an IP (internet provider). If you have all that, continue reading!

This program runs in the background so you can leave it up and running while doing other things on your computer.

Get the FREE software from:

<http://www.goteamspeak.com>

On the upper right corner, go to "Quick Download."

Download the "TS2 Client." (Be sure it's the *client*.)

Install and launch the program.

Upper left hit "Connection."

Then select "Quick Connect."

TYPE this server address:

65.235.214.193:8767

Type in a Nickname of your choice.

Then hit "Connect."

You will be on the "Default Channel."

YOU ARE THERE!

(You only have to do this once) From "Settings," go to "Sound Input/Output Settings," Go to "Voice Send Method"; "Push to talk"; then "Set" the key you want to use to talk (I use the Ctrl key. Use whatever works for you.)

Whenever you want to talk, hit the key you selected for your push-to-talk and you will see the green indicator light next to your name.

To leave TS2, go to the upper left and click on "Connection" and select "Quit."

This is NOT just for USECA members to use—use it for your family/friends across the world if you'd like.

As you become more familiar with this program, you'll be able to join other "channels."

This is really cool and it's FULL DUPLEX too!

The Great One Eight!

1
4
7
.
1
8

Why do they say, "For ID"?

Pre-Field Day 2005—From Page 1

We had as many as 8 QRP stations (and a couple of mobiles) operating last year, from full blown base stations on battery power (with PSK, RTTY, SSTV etc on tap), to QRP CW mini-stations in an Altoids Mints tin! There was even a station running ATV (*Amateur TV*). Come on out to Stony for Pre-Field Day—be one of the people that make us known as the "Happenin' Club!"

We'll be setting up in the same picnic area as last year, "Gladeview A"...it's the first picnic area on the right as you enter Stony Creek Metropark and is atop the highest point in the park, if you'd like to check it out beforehand. It's a great place to fly a kite with the kids and play radio, with an open field nearby and lots of trees for hanging antennas.

As per any USECA outing there'll be food aplenty, with the club springing for lemonade, burgers, buns, and dogs...and YOU bringing a dish to pass. We'll be operating under the club callsign, meaning that those of you who don't have HF privileges yet *can* operate on HF under the club call. Plan on making this a family outing—bring along a friend and introduce them to Ham Radio...bring a rig and operate "/portable"...but most of all, plan on attending. Ask any one of the 40-50 folks who were there last year, and they'll tell you what a great time everyone had. Remember...mark Saturday, May 14th on your calendar, circle it in red, and be there!

Note: Further information will be in May's Express.

2005 MI QSO Party—From Page 1

Date /Time: Michigan QSO Party, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z April 16th until 0400Z April 17th. Stations may operate the full 12 hours. (12 noon to 12 midnight local Michigan time on April 16.)

Modes and Categories: Phone and CW on 80/40/20/15/10 meters. Single-op, multi-op, and mobile categories. Single-op entries are categorized by output power, QRP (5W or less), Low Power (100W or less), and High Power (greater than 100W).

Multipliers: Work stations once per band and mode. Work other states and Michigan Stations. MI to MI QSO's are allowed. Work portables and mobiles again as they change county, state or province.

Exchange: Exchange QSO number and location (county for MI stations, state/province or "DX" for others).

Scoring: One point per phone QSO, two points per CW QSO. Count multipliers once per mode. Multipliers are MI counties for all entries, plus states & provinces for MI entries only. Final score is total QSO points times total multipliers.

Freqs: Suggested frequencies: CW-3545, 7045, 14045, 21045, 28045; Phone-3850, 7225, 14250, 21300, 28450.

Log Submittal: Mail logs no later than 30 days after the contest to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 or via e-mail to logs@miqp.org.

More Information: For complete rules, along with free logging software, log and summary sheets, see <http://www.miqp.org>.

73 es cu April 16th 2005

Bicycle Mobile—From Page 1

The equipment I chose to use was an MFJ 9320 Cub transceiver with a 2-watt output, Sony earbuds, the Palm Mini Paddle, a 12-volt NiCad battery pack and a 20-meter Hustler mobile antenna. I mounted the Hustler mast to the upright frame member that supports the seat post using a mirror mount antenna bracket. This placed the antenna at a backward angle, which made for more clearance beneath overhanging tree limbs. I placed the MFJ rig in a small bag on the handlebars along with the battery pack. I made a bracket to hold the Mini Paddle atop the handlebar just in front of the handgrip, allowing me to operate it without removing my hand from the handlebars.

I made a score of contacts while riding to and from the beach during the summer season and I learned a few things that I want to pass along.

I picked 20 meters because the antenna is relatively small and surprisingly enough, the bike frame was enough of a counterpoise to allow a good match to the antenna. The use of "earbuds or Walkman type headphones allow you to hear outside sounds, important when near traffic areas. The paddle was located so as not to interfere with steering.

As bicycles vibrate on rough surfaces, the radio should be protected from the vibration.

The antenna is mounted on a rearward angle which helps prevent strikes from overhead branches. Ride on a bike path. Riding in the street along with traffic while operating is asking to die!

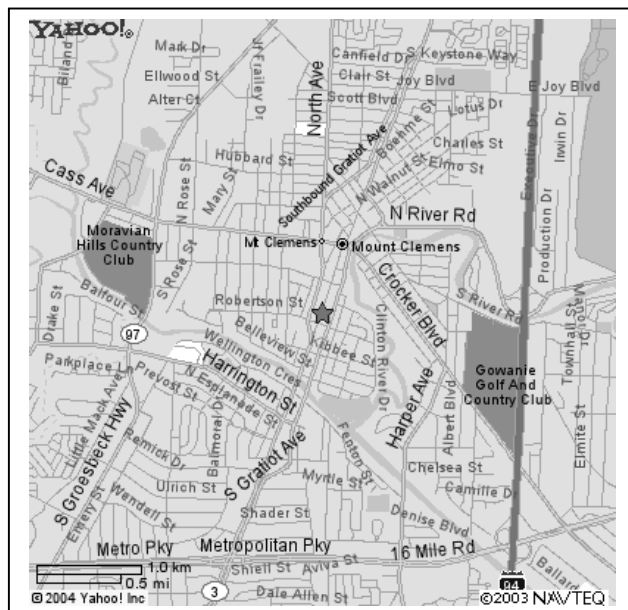
Last and most important. Stay alert to your surroundings. Situational awareness is key to survival! The reason I do not operate bicycle mobile anymore is that at one point I could not remember crossing a busy intersection on my way to the beach.

If you do decide to give it a try, be careful. It can be a lot of fun, but again, it can be dangerous.

Remember . . .

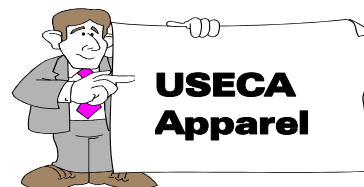
Income Tax filing deadline is April 15.

USECA Meeting Location → →



USECA VE Testing

Testing will be the FIRST Thursday of the month from September through June. Joe, N8OZ will have the CVE duty. No pre-registration is needed or wanted. Test Fee is \$14.00. 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: Chuck, N8ZA
At Meetings or Phone (586) 557-4983

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 **USECA member**.
- ✓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: Arpad, WY8M, 28803 Grobbel, Warren, MI 48092; or email to wy8m@arrl.net.
- ✓5) If you notice any errors in the database, wrong or changed call signs, mis-spelled names, etc., let Arpad 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 Cork Board

▶ Radio Items ◀

ICOM Sound Card Interface. It's the kit of parts and circuit board to build the audio interface. About 95 percent of the parts are with it, it does not come in a kit. I ordered the parts from about three different sources. I did NOT order the case. I have well over \$100.00 in the parts and board, I do not need it anymore. Asking \$50. Contact Dan, WA8GQL at: radiodan@comcast.net.

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, h (248) 542-3340; wrk: (586) 576-3314 or email: kc8loc@yahoo.com.

KENWOOD Linear Amp. 1000 watts, model TL-922A; 160-15 meters; \$1000.

General Radio Freq. Measuring Equipment; 2-6' cabinets; w/all frequency equipment; w/manuals; lots of electronics; \$250.

HEATHKIT Transceiver model HW-16; w/manual. 80-40 & 15 meters; no crystals; \$35.

HEATHKIT SWL radio model GR-81; 160-80-40-20 meters; w/manual \$50.

Contact K8LJM, Jose; (586) 792-4602.

▶ 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!

★FOR SALE

KENWOOD R2000 – Short-wave HF receiver, covers all HF-broadcast-ham-CB-marine bands, receives all popular modes AM/FM/CW/SSB, 150kHz to 30MHz, built in power supply or can run on external 12VDC, have box, owners manual, service manual; \$325-

Motorola 5Y – actually made by Galvin Mfg Co. in 1937, no case, large Motorola speaker, very dusty, functional condition unknown, \$ MAKE OFFER.

American Electrola DXC-100 – rare tabletop radio only 2000 made, American made with American components, HF receiver to 30 MHz, AM/FM/SW, digital display, direct entry keypad, wooden case, front firing speaker, large internal wire loop antenna, long telescopic antenna, ext jack, power supply, original owners manual; \$125-

Yaesu MH-34 – Speaker mic for Yaesu HT's, single pin 4-conductor style, rotatable lapel clip, like new; \$20.

Kenwood SMC-33 – Speaker-mic for Kenwood HT's, two-pin style, right angle connector, has the three programmable buttons across the top, lock switch on the back, rotatable lapel clip; \$45.

Computer Speakers – amplified pc speakers, used only 10 minutes; \$5-

MFJ MFJ-956 – tuner, two knobs, 2 SO-239's; \$25.

Archer 15-1113 – UHF/VHF/FM pre-amp, 110V; \$10.

CB Antenna – about 26" long, base loaded, base load is tunable w/2 adjustment rings, 3/8" style mount; \$5.

Cell Phone Mobile Power Cord – for cell phone 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 about 6" with BNC, \$5; dual band 2M/440 "Icom" style about 6" with BNC, \$15; 11 Meter black rubber duck with 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 Arnad WY8M at: wv8m@arrl.net or

Meeting Minutes—

From Page 7

Dave, W8RIT asked for operators for the Michigan QSO party. Metro Beach, April 16 noon – midnight.

USECA Apparel: Chuck, N8ZA has taken on the job – there are several new jacket styles available and he brought some samples. Contact Chuck for info and to place an order. Most orders will take about 2 weeks.

The business portion of the meeting was concluded at 8:45 PM.

The program was presented by Bill, N8SA on grounding.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F
Recording Secretary



(That's us—U S of A)

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!*

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.

Local Area FM Nets

DAY	TIME	CLUB	FREQ.
SUN	1:00 pm	USECA/Information	147.180
SUN	7:00 pm	USECA/Youth	147.180
SUN	8:00 pm	USECA/Traders/Helpers	147.180
SUN	9:00 pm	HPARC/Info	146.640
SUN	9:00 pm	Garden City ARC	146.860
SUN-SAT	10:15 pm	S. E. Michigan Traffic Net	145.330
MON	7:30 pm	SATERN	147.180
MON	8:00 pm	MECA/Info	147.200
MON	8:00 pm	GMARC (PL 123)	443.075
MON	9:00 pm	USECA/Morse Code Class	147.180
TUE	9:00 pm	Motor City Radio Club	147.240
WED	9:00 pm	ARPSC/Info	145.490
THU	8:00 pm	RACES/ARES	147.200
THU	8:30 pm	LCARC/Info	147.080

VHF PL'S — 100 Hz

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

WWW.USECA.NET

Local HF Nets

DAY	TIME	CLUB	FREQ.
MON	7:30 pm	LCARC/15 Meter CW	21.165
MON	9:00 pm	LCARC/15 Meter Phone USB	21.395
WED	7:00 pm	USECA/6 Meter Phone USB	50.150
THU	7:30 pm	LCARC/10 Meter Phone USB	28.435
THU	9:00 pm	USECA/15 Meter Slow CW	21.140
FRI	10:00 pm	USECA/80 Meter CW	3.720

Listings in **BOLD** are USECA club nets, but ALL ARE WELCOME!

Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

WEEK	SUN. 1 PM	SUN. 8 PM**
1	VA3IDJ	W1IK
2	KT8F	KC8WXF
3	—OPEN—	W8RIT
4	KW8Z	WN1B
5*	WB8E	KW8Z

*If applicable

**Traders/Helpers Net

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

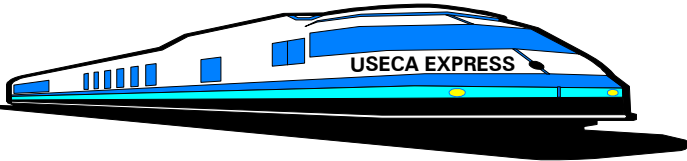
USECA

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

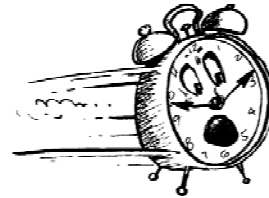
POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

PRESRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WARREN, MI
PERMIT NO. 289



**The USECA Express
Heading Your Way!**

APRIL 2005



*Spring Ahead
Sunday, April 3rd*

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
APR	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	1		WalkAmerica—Metro Beach
MAY	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	14		Pre-Field Day
MAY	20-22		Dayton Hamvention
JUN	14	7:30 pm	General Meeting & Fox Hunt
JUN	24-26		Field Day 2005
SEP	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting
OCT	11	7:30 pm	General Meeting
NOV	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting
DEC	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting

Name Badges

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

Swaps — See Page 6