



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 22, Number 4, April 2006

USECA's 2006 Pre-Field Day Saturday, May 13 Stony Creek Metro-Park

Ken, N8KC

QST! QST! ... Calling all USECAns! Once again, USECA will hold its annual Pre-Field Day at Stony Creek Park. Mark the date above on your calendar! It's the weekend of Mother's Day and the one before the Dayton Hamvention. Circle it in red and be sure to attend what has always been a fun, family-oriented, outdoor, USECA annual event. Bring along your kids (please watch them!) or friends and introduce them to Amateur Radio. Come on out just to socialize or get radioactive and play a lil' radio.

In the last few years we've had as many as 50 folks show up, with up to 8 QRP stations simultaneously operating, covering most of the HF bands and sometimes VHF. We've had the usual CW and SSB HF stations, with CW stations being the more common, but we have had a few digital operators out there as well (packet, SSTV, PSK etc). It'd be nice if we could operate a few of the WARC bands as well (60, 30 & 17m as well as the usual 20 & 40m stations).

We generally hold several "Fox Hunts," sponsored by Phil (W8IC), who will supply some RDF equipment and the "fox" for those of you who don't have any gear and would like to get involved in the fun of hunting for a hidden transmitter.

—Continued on Page 7

2006 Michigan QSO Party

I'M SENDING the following to all the Michigan radio clubs with the hope that you will again help us get the word out about the 2006 Michigan QSO Party that will be held on April 15th from 12 noon to midnight local time. With your help, we can spread the word at the "grass roots" level and assure a great turn out for this year's event.

I ask that you help us spread the word by doing the following:

1. Please announce the event at your March and April club meetings and try to drum up some activity within your club. The MiQP can be a great club activity!

—Continued on Page 5

Eat B 4 U Meet

April's menu, and of course for a small nominal fee, we will serve "Cheaper than Barleycorns" Hamburger with Fries, starting at 6:00 PM.

Note: I would like to thank, again, all the members who are attending the meetings for parking in the back section of the parking. At the request of the Elks, they would like to keep the front part open as much as possible for the Euchre players during the winter months.

Dennis

W8Dah Food Guy

WalkAmerica 2006

Dennis, W8DFG

AGAIN, it's that time of year, **Walk America**. For all the new hams and new members in the club, we have been doing this event for the community since 1995. On the day of the walk, which is April 30th, we provide communications for the March of Dimes and the health and welfare for the 1500 walkers who raised \$225,000.00 last year. It's not a busy day, which is good, meaning that all is going well. But one never knows when an ambulance, or any other emergency that may arise. This is our mission for the day.

We also will have a Special Events station set up. Those hams that want to test antennas for Field Day come out and set up and try out the new equipment. We secured W8A for the call sign for this Special Events Station. If you want to participate in the Special Event Station, the Walk Committee will be out Saturday morning setting up for the Walk, or come out Sunday morning and set up, we have the call for the weekend, and the event will be listed in QST.

Brain, KC8DIR will be in command this year to organize the day's activity. So please contact him if you are interested in participating, via the repeater, or send him an e-mail at kc8dir@k8uo.com. We have people stationed at the checkpoints, registration area; people have even brought their bikes out to ride the walk route.

—Continued on Page 9

Next Meeting — April 11

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Chuck Perushek/N8ZA (586) 557-4983
Vice President	Brad Tarratt/N8VI (248) 506-7609
Recording Secretary	Ann Manor/KT8F (586) 751-3893
Treasurer	Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Membership Secretary	Ken Cassale/KW8Z (586) 552-8311
Board Member	Walt Gracey/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Board Member	Phil Manor/W8IC (586) 751-3893
Board Member	Joe Kennedy/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Past President	Jim Wickstrom/W11K (586) 771-4135

COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison	Dave/W8RIT (810) 765-3745
Awards Manager	Chris/KV8Z
Door Prizes	—OPEN—
Editor	Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
Field Day Chair	Phil/W8IC & Ann/KT8F (586) 751-3893
Health & Welfare	Walt/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Liaison	Dave/KC8TTQ
Mails/Sorters	Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
Net Manager	Brian/KC8DIR (586) 749-4561
Photographer	—OPEN—
Program Director	Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609
Public Relations Officer	Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
Refreshments	Walt/WB8E and Richard/KC8HMJ
Repeater Trustee	Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Swap Director	Scott/WN1B (248) 628-4756
Swap Team	Dave/W8RIT; Tom, KD8AVF
Technical Director	Floyd/W8RO (248) 391-6660
Technicians	WN1B; W8IC; K8FT; WA8GQL; KC8IAQ; W11K; AD8S; N8SA
VE Testing	Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Webmaster	Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

Scott/WN1B	Jim/W11K*	Floyd/W8RO*
Dennis/W8DFG*	Joe/K8OEF*	Fred/W1SKU
Phil/W8IC*	Joe/N8OZ*	Chuck/N8ZA*

PROGRAMMERS

Dennis/W8DFG

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

April—that's this edition and that means we change our clocks and get more livable daylight—and help our community by participating in WalkAmerica. Then comes May, with Pre-Field Day and Dayton Hamvention. Following that is June and that means Field Day. We're just loaded with events to look forward to. But, one of the best things about June is that once the *Express* is done for that month, the entire editorial staff will go on their annual two month vacation; well deserved if I must say so myself.

I was informed by one of our Board members, that our Net Points should soon appear (again) in the *Express*. Until that time, there was no need to include the explanation of our net points in every *Express*. But, NCO's should continue to submit their logs to Chris (see box below).

Sorry our "disclaimer" is not in this edition; I just couldn't squeeze everything to make it fit.

73 for now.

Attention:

Net Control Operators

Please send your logs to Chris, KV8Z at 8420 Republic, Warren, MI 48089; or email to kv8z@k8uo.com.

On The Cheap!

Joe, K8OEF

Cheap? Thrifty? Conservative? Take your pick.

Becoming a senior, and on a fixed income, I discovered that spending habits must change.

I once learned, "You Gotta Know Where To Shop." (Or, "Buyer Beware.") And, how much truer it is when your income funds become stagnant.

So in that light, I decided to pass along some of my findings—perhaps you to could capitalize on the things I've learned.

This past February, listening to the repeater, I heard the folks out there comparative shopping from their mobiles for the best gasoline prices. My ears perked up, then thought to myself, I think I had the best deal in town.

While the mobiles were calling out the posted prices as they drove by various gas stations, I did my thing and with a little math, perhaps came up with the best deal.

(This is no commercial advertisement, just a statement of facts.)

I buy my gas from Speedway. (If you're old enough, you'll remember "Speedway 79," or how about "Speedway's Going Steady With Ethyl.")

So why do I buy this brand? Why at the location I prefer? (Van Dyke and 26 Mile Rd.)

I heard \$2.11; then \$2.10; last I heard was \$2.09. These were terrific prices. So I checked out where I shop—the posted price was \$2.08.

—Continued on Page 8

Revised Scanner Legislation

I AM PLEASED to report that Governor Granholm signed the attached legislation on March 2, 2006 and it became enacted on that date. These changes to Section 508 MCL will take effect 90 days from that date. The holders of all classes of amateur radio licenses will become totally exempt from the receiver restrictions. I suggest that anyone carrying a transceiver capable of receiving public safety frequencies also carry a copy of this Act along with your Amateur Radio License.

73, Dale WA8EFK
ARRL Section Manager, Michigan

STATE OF MICHIGAN
93RD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2006

Introduced by Reps. Elsenheimer, Jones, Newell, Nofs, David Law and Sheltroun ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4544 AN ACT to amend 1931 PA 328, entitled "An act to revise, consolidate, codify, and add to the statutes relating to crimes; to define crimes and prescribe the penalties and remedies; to provide for restitution under certain circumstances; to provide for the competency of evidence at the trial of persons accused of crime; to provide immunity from prosecution for certain witnesses appearing at such trials; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts inconsistent with or contravening

any of the provisions of this act," by amending section 508 (MCL 750.508), as amended by 2002 PA672.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 508. (1) A person who has been convicted of 1 or more felonies during the preceding 5 years shall not carry or have in his or her possession a radio receiving set that will receive signals sent on a frequency assigned by the federal communications commission of the United States for police or other law enforcement, fire fighting, emergency medical, federal, state, or local corrections, or homeland security purposes. This subsection does not apply to a person who is licensed as an amateur radio operator by the federal communications commission. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both. (2) A person shall not carry or have in his or her possession in the commission or attempted commission of a crime a radio receiving set that will receive signals sent on a frequency assigned by the federal communications commission of the United States for police or other law enforcement, fire fighting, emergency medical, federal, state, or local corrections, or homeland security purposes. A person

who violates this subsection is guilty of a crime as follows: (a) If this subsection is violated in the commission or attempted commission of a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of at least 93 days but less than 1 year, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both. (b) If this subsection is violated in the commission or attempted commission of a misdemeanor or felony punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of 1 year or more, the person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or a fine of not more than \$2,000.00, or both. (3) Subsection (2) does not apply to a person who carries or has in his or her possession a radio receiving set described in subsection (2) in the commission or attempted commission of a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of less than 93 days. (4) This section does not apply to the use of radar detectors. Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days after the date it is enacted. This act is ordered to take immediate effect. ss//Clerk of the House of Representatives ss//Secretary of the Senate Approved ss//Governor.

Life Span of An Antenna

WELL, GENERALLY it depends on hours spent listening.

The antenna converts electro-magnetic energy into electrical energy, which is basically electrons moving into your radio.

There are only so many electrons in each inch of copper wire, so when they've been sent downstream into your radio, the wire will become "ionized" and deteriorate and probably fall down. This explains why, when you come home one day, your antenna is on the ground (see below).

What happens to all those electrons, you ask. Well, they migrate into your radio and accumulate. In older tube radios, there was a "grid leak" resistor circuit, which allowed the electrons to fall on the ground. Now you can't see them, but they're there. As more pile up, they slide into your back yard.

Tube radios, because of the "grid leak" last a lot longer than solid state radios, which stop working when enough electrons have piled up inside to short it out.

Now those electrons in your backyard want to get back into the copper wire, so they "pull" the antenna down to be re-united with it. Since the antenna is high, and they're on the ground, this attraction is not strong, but on a windy day, the electrons get lifted from the ground towards the antenna, pulling it down again. The wind often brings in free electrons from your neighbor's homes (from TVs, etc), so there may be a lot of these things around.

—Continued on Page 9

USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—March 7, 2006

In attendance:

N8ZA, Chuck	President
N8VI, Brad	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KW8Z, Ken	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
WB8E, Walt	Board Member
W8IC, Phil	Board Member
N8OZ, Joe	Board Member
W11K, Jim	Past President
*Absent	



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

Correspondence: read by Ann, KT8F. Request by Joel Stanley, KC8DQH for permission to use the USECA repeater again in 2006 for the siren testing net on the first Saturday of the month. Jim, W11K made the motion to grant permission, 2nd by Brad, N8VI, motion carried. Dennis, W8DFG made a motion to donate \$65.00 to the MAD River Radio Club for the Michigan QSO party, 2nd by Ken, KW8Z, motion carried.

Motion to accept the minutes of the last BOD meeting made by Dennis, W8DFG, and 2nd by Phil, W8IC, motion carried.

Treasurer's report provided by Dennis, W8DFG, motion to accept made by Jim, W11K, supported by Joe, N8OZ, motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z reported 155 current members. Applications reviewed and accepted.

Webmaster: Brad, N8VI – everything appears to be working well, the stream ought to be up and running in about 2 weeks.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – no report.

Trustee: Dennis, W8DFG reported on the recent MARC meeting.

Technical: Scott, WN1B reported on recent work. All links are up and running. Voter calibrated. Repeater sounds good. Scott has put together a back-up controller. Scott will install the backup controller so that the main controller can be sent in for repairs.

Field Day: Phil, W8IC – nothing new to report at this time.

Swap: Tom, KD8AVF – nothing new at this time.

Health and Welfare: WB8E stated business is taken care of as needed.

Old Business

Jim, W11K reported the need to inventory and remove old and surplus club equipment from Brian, KC8DIR's garage. Scott, WN1B will go out and evaluate the equipment, and possibly test some of it. Discussion ensued re: selling the items on E-Bay. Rich, K8PJQ offered to help with the E-Bay auction process.

New Business

Dennis, W8DFG – informed the BOD that we are paying \$27.47 for our SBC phone line for the repeater. He is looking into obtaining a better rate with Talk-America and changing services.

Walt, WB8E discussed purchasing club ballpoint pens for sale and other uses, such as promotions. The pens would have club info printed on them. Discussion. Will look into pricing and revisit the plan next month.

Chuck, N8ZA stated we need to have a club QSL card made up.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Phil, W8IC, 2nd by Ann, KT8F, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann, KT8F, Recording Secretary



General Meeting—March 14, 2006

In attendance:

N8ZA, Chuck	President
N8VI, Brad	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KW8Z, Ken	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
WB8E, Walt	Board Member
W8IC, Phil	Board Member
N8OZ, Joe	Board Member
W11K, Jim	Past President
*Absent	

Meeting called to order by the President at 7:30: PM.

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

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Keith, N8EB and 2nd by Mike, N5WCS, motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Dennis, W8DFG. Motion to approve made by Bob, KZ8N, supported by Tom, KD8AVF, motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z: 165 members.

Website: Brad, N8VI reported that there are some new upgrades and soon real-time repeater audio will be up and running.

Express: Joe, K8OEF: no report.

Technical report: provided by Phil, W8IC. Scott, WN1B has installed a temporary controller. The main controller is out for repairs. All receivers in the system will be modified to lower the high end response (above 6 KHz) using a special filter.

ARRL: - no report.

Trustee: Dennis, W8DFG – repeater is "muting" on some signals. He stated that backing off from the microphone will help reduce this problem for a temporary fix. He also recommended that people stop quick keying. Also, when

—Continued on Page 9

2006 Michigan QSO Party

—From Page 1

2. Please publish the attached "MIQP press release" and the "MiQP for First-Timers" in your club newsletter. (see Attachment MIQP Press Release.doc and MiQP for First-Timers.doc)

3. Post an announcement of the Michigan QSO Party on your club web page. Please include the link to the MIQP web site. The link is <http://www.miqp.org>

We thank you in advance for your help. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. NU8Z-MiQP@comcast.net.

Hope to hear you and members of your club on the air during the QSO party on April 15th.

73 Mark NU8Z

See below press release.

Attention Michigan Hams. Do the low sunspot numbers and worsening HF conditions have you feeling down? Do you find it difficult to conjure up the energy needed to get on the air and have some fun like in the old days? Do you shy away from participating in ham radio related group activities? If you have any one of, or all of the above symptoms, you may be suffering from Amateur Radio Dysfunction Syndrome, also know as "ARDS".

Fear not! "ARDS" is a condition that can be treated with proper corrective actions. It is a fact that 9 out of 10 doctors agree that the best treatment for "ARDS" is a good dose of "Radio Activity". Doctors also agree that the most efficient delivery method for "ARDS" treatment comes in the form of participation in the 2006 Michigan QSO Party. The number of ARDS pa-

tients seeking treatment in the MiQP has been growing every year. Remember, this is a yearly condition, and yearly treatments may be needed. Treatment may be administered in single exposure doses taken in the comfort of your home (Single Op), or when you travel in your car (Mobile). If you are apprehensive about taking the treatment when you are alone, you may be treated within a group session (Multi-op), or as single treatment member of a larger support group like your radio club. Your treatment support group can compete against other ARDS support groups.

Warning! Dosages should not exceed time periods of over 12 hour. Exposure times of less than 12 hours may be appropriate depending on the severity of your condition. Remember, even short exposures to MiQP ARDS treatment will be of benefit to you. If at any time during the MiQP treatment period you experience excessively high "fun" levels, you should consider terminating or reducing the level of treatment. In rare cases excessively high "Fun" levels have been known to last for days after the treatment. If these high levels should persist, see your family doctor.

The Michigan QSO Party ARDS treatment should only be taken as prescribed below.

Date/Time: Michigan QSO Party, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z April 15th until 0400Z April 16th. Stations may operate the full 12 hours. (12 noon to 12 midnight local Michigan time on April 15th)

Modes and Categories: Phone and CW on 80/40/20/15/10 meters. Single-op, multi-op, and mo-

bile 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/>

All kidding aside, the MiQP is a ton of fun. It has been growing in size every year. We expect this year to be even better! There will be stations on from all 83 counties. Consider making it a club event. This is a great way to get folks on the air. I also ask that you all help spread the word about the 2006 MiQP. Let's all make Michigan "Radio Active" on April 15th!

73 Mark, NU8Z

Taxpayers rejoice. You have two extra days to file your tax returns this year. Because April 15 falls on a Saturday, your return need not be postmarked until Monday, April 17.

Next Year ... **NEXT YEAR (2007):**

Daylight Saving Time begins for most of the United States at 2 a.m. on the **second Sunday of March**. Time will revert to standard time at 2 a.m. on the **first Sunday in November**.

A Final Report:

SATERN In Support Of Super Bowl XL

By Ann-Marie, K8AMR

Objective

The objective of the Metropolitan Detroit Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) Team was to provide communications support to Super Bowl Activities for 2 days prior to Super Bowl and the day of the Game. Team members were placed on Canteens, served as runners for equipment and supplies, drove shuttle vans, shadowed EDS Incident Command and Section Chiefs, provided Security for vehicles in Harbor Light parking area or served at SATERN RV Base as Net Controls, Backup Net Controls or transcribers. Canteens were serving Joint Command and Incident Command Centers for Michigan State Police, Detroit Police Department, NFL, Apparatus and Downtown Activities. All Canteen & EDS volunteers arrived at Harbor Light, parked, signed in and were shuttled to and from Canteens.

Preparation

The SATERN Team Leader, Ann-Marie Ruder, K8AMR and Quartermaster Harold Ruder, K8YB with EDS Director George Aren attended a four day workshop *Integrating Emergency Management Course: Detroit, Michigan* set up by the City of Detroit Homeland Security December 5-8, 2005. Sixty-four man hours were acquired in these workshops. Two SATERN meetings were held January 7th and 21st, 2006. Thirteen hams spent 42 man-hours in these meetings. The most pressing issue was permission to use a centrally located 2-Meter repeater, as SATERN does not own a repeater. Officers of the General Motors Amateur Radio Club (GMARC) agreed to allow SATERN use of their repeater located atop the Renaissance Center for 3 days from 7 AM to Midnight. The Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Asso-

ciation (USECA) agreed to provide backup repeater access.

Anderson Power Pole Connectors were attached to all radios by Cliff Ibbs, KC8WHL. Yaesu FT 8800 dual band radios were programmed by Allan Koch, KA8JJN. Bill Heaver, K8EDS was responsible for bringing tower trailer to the site. Larry Mandziuk, KI8HJ secured all grounding and technical testing equipment. Gerald Cayan, KC8FYQ secured supplies for the Security Team. Harold Ruder, K8YB repaired RV for use as Base, picked up all equipment stored at Headquarters and brought supplies and the RV to the site. Ann-Marie Ruder, K8AMR developed forms for Signing In, Equipment Usage, Instruction Sheet, Assignments, Tactical Message format and Net Control Station Logs. Finally the Team Leader attended an EDS Staff Meeting January 24th with Section Chiefs, Canteen Corps Officers and Community Volunteer Representatives. Seven hams provided 119 man-hours of preparation for the event.

Set Up

The trailer tower and RV, which were used as SATERN Base were placed in Harbor Light parking lot west of the building on Thursday afternoon February 3. Eleven hams and 4 volunteers put in 58 man-hours to attach the G5RV and Vertical dual band antenna, raise the tower to 100 feet, secure 12 guy ropes, provide grounding and activate the radios.

Staffing

Major Pat McPherson, WW9E, National SATERN Director, currently stationed at Midland Salvation Army Corps, and Major Bill Heaver, K8EDS, Michigan SATERN Director, currently stationed at Mt. Clemens Corps, shadowed EDS Incident Commander and Section Chiefs as well as drove shuttle vans and served as Net Control Stations.

SATERN members Fred Regan, N8DV, Doug, KC8ZCF and Sherri Donner, KD8AWV. Bob Hollingsworth, KZ8N and Michelle Heaver, KC8NAI served on Canteens. Gerald Cayan, KC8FYQ was Security Chief and runner.

SATERN Members Cliff Ibbs, KC8WHL, Larry Mandziuk, KI8HJ, John Takle, KC8DTG and Harold Ruder, K8YB served on canteens and as Net Control Stations. Members Allan Kock, KA8JJN and Ann-Marie Ruder, K8AMR served as Net Control Stations while Lori Wieber, KD8CME was the transcriber. In total 15 hams provided 263 man-hours of service in those three days.

Equipment

Generators provided power to the SATERN RV and Security Trailer. Metal plates 18" square and magnetic mounting 2 Meter antennas were used on canteens with the operator's personal transceivers. At the Base Station an Icom 718 with MFJ 993B auto tuner and Yaesu FT 8800R dual band transceivers were used by Net Controls.

Operations

The SATERN Tactical Net was initiated each morning by the Team Leader utilizing the prepared preamble with the Quartermaster as Backup Net Control. As operators arrived they signed in, received an information sheet, an assignment, a SBXL baseball cap and were transported to Canteens. Net Control read the Standby Notice at appropriate intervals (usually 15 to 20 minutes) and Roll Call was held 15 minutes before each hour. All transmissions were logged. SATERN Operators on Canteens assisted in serving food with canteen volunteers as well as contacted Base for supplies, reporting a fire, requesting additional food or volunteers and providing information on the number of persons served. The net

ended each night by reading the closing statement of the preamble. Net Controls also checked into the SAROF HF Net at 11 AM, Michigan Traffic Net at 7 PM and Emergency Net initiated by the Section Emergency Coordinator Marty Mendelson, N8MG at 4 PM on Sunday. All radio activities were culminated by 6 PM with the lowering of the tower and removal of all personnel, tower, trailer and SATERN RV by 8 PM. In the following days two hams spent 18 hours returning equipment and preparing this report.

Statistics

A spreadsheet was developed to present the statistics. Over all 20 SATERN members accumulated 549 man hours involved in workshops, meetings, preparation, tower raising, canteen working, serving as Net Controls, Backup Net Controls and transcribers. Four non-SATERN volunteers worked 7½ hours assisting in the tower raising. Total man-hours were 556½.

Summary

SATERN achieved its objective of providing communication in support of Super Bowl XL activities and was able to demonstrate quicker response time than the use of cell phones. Some forms, notably the Tactical Message format, Tactical Call Assignment Sheet

and Equipment Assignment Sheet, proved too cumbersome to use. However, the logs kept by Net Controls of all transmissions proved invaluable not only in assisting the updating of the White Board and keeping track of who was where but also in retrospect enabled the formation of assignment sheets which assisted in tracking individuals as they moved from one job to another and provided an overview of the number of canteens staffed at any given time.

Acknowledgements

The SATERN team wishes to thank the members, Board Members and Trustees of the GM Amateur Radio [Club] (GMARC) for the use of their repeater for three days. We also thank the members, Board Members and Trustees of the Utica Shelby Emergency Communications (USECA) for agreeing to provide access to their repeater as backup in case there was a problem with the GM repeater.

We would also like to thank several members of the Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) of the Eastern Michigan Division of the Salvation Army for allowing us to show what we could do. First of all, thanks to George Aren, EDS Director, for allowing us to show what we could do. We would also like to

thank Calleen Austin, EDS Training Coordinator and Section Chief for all Super Bowl volunteers, who told us what she wanted then let us do our job.

Thanks to Major Pat McPherson, WW9E, National SATERN Director, for letting us run the show and assisting in many ways. Thanks to Major Bill Heaver, K8EDS, Michigan SATERN Director, who provided behind the scenes back up and moral support and let us take charge. Thanks to Marty Mendelson, N8MG, Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC), who provided the intra-state as well as inter-state radio coordination to support SATERN, the City of Detroit EOC and Wayne County EOC.

My personal thanks to Harold Ruder, K8YB, Quartermaster, and Larry Mandziuk, KI8HJ, Electronics and Grounding Specialist, both of whom did so many little unrecognized things to make everything run smoothly. Finally, my thanks to all the SATERN members and other volunteers who gave so generously of their time in this special event. Exercises like this allow Amateur Radio Operators to demonstrate the viability of Ham Radio Emergency Communications.

2006 Pre-Field Day—From Page 1

If you have your own portable RDF gear, *please* bring it out and show it off to the rest of us. I encourage *anyone* who can to come out and set up a station—it's a great way to show off your rig and skill at setting up a portable operating position. *Your rig does not have to be a "QRP rig," but due to our proximity at the site, it must be able to dial down to QRP power levels.* I will have available for use, an extra 12v battery for anyone who might need it (*no generators allowed in the park*)—*you* supply and make any connections. I'm also hoping that we can get Darrell (KA8LGI), Floyd (W8RO), Brian (AA8CY) and others to come out with their wild antennas and mobile antenna shoot-out equipment and dramatically show the differences between our many mobile HF antenna configurations. It'd also be fun to compare the many

different mobile installations in members' cars and to see what tricks they've used for a clean looking installation.

I have reserved the same pavilion as last year, "Gladeview A," which is atop the highest point in the park and is the 1st picnic area on the right after entering the park. It offers adjacent parking, plenty of trees for hanging antennas, a newer pavilion, and modern restrooms just a stone's throw away. Remember that there *is* a daily entrance fee to the Metroparks—3 or 4 bucks last time I checked, unless you have a yearly pass. A re-run of this Pre-Field Day announcement will appear in May's Express.

As in years past, USECA will be supplying the burgers, dogs, and buns for Pre-Field Day, as well as most utensils, napkins, and condiments. If you attend and plan to

join in the picnic it is expected that you bring a dish to add to the usual USECA smorgasbord. Home-made is great, but if you're not a cook, stop by the store and pick something up ... ***don't show up empty-handed!*** We'll need the usual picnic items. Deviled eggs, pasta salads, coleslaw, potato salad, veggie tray, desserts, cookies, chips and dips, etc ... Please ***do not*** bring something that requires cooking (*light warming is OK*). The grill will be working hard enough to keep up with the demand for burgers and dogs.

Now ... go mark the 13th of May on your calendar and plan on havin' a good time with the happenin' club ... USECA!

See ya' there ...Ken, N8KC

USECA Club Liaison

MONTH	DATE	EVENT
APR	8	Milford Swap and Shop Milford Amateur Radio Club Highland, MI Milford High School 2380 Milford Road http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk/ Talk-In: 145.49 MHz (PL 67) Contact: Rose Mary Moore, KC8NQG Phone: 810-632-5174 Email: mboard3106@aol.com
MAY	6	Cadillac Amateur Radio and Computer Swap Wexaukee Amateur Radio Club Cadillac, MI Cadillac Junior High School 500 Chestnut Street http://members.fortunecity.com/wexaukee Talk-In: 146.98 - (no tone) Contact: Brian Polk, KC8TXT Phone: 231-743-6860 Email: bandb@netonecom.net
MAY	19-21	55th Dayton Hamvention Dayton ARA Trotwood, OH Hara Arena 1001 Shiloh Springs Road http://www.hamvention.org/ Contact: Jim Nies, WX8F.
JUN	3	Annual Hamfestival The Independent Repeater Association Hudsonville, MI Hudsonville Fairgrounds Grant Street http://www.w8hvg.org Talk-In: 147.16 (PL 94.8) Contact: Ray Abraczinskas, W8HVG Phone: 616-455-3915 Email: abra@i2k.com
JUN	18	Monroe County Radio Communications Association Monroe, MI Monroe County Fairgrounds 3775 South Custer Road http://www.mcrcra.org/hamfest.htm Talk-In: 146.72/12 Contact: Fred VanDaele, KA8EBI Phone: 734-242-9487 Email: ka8ebi@arrl.net
JUN	24	TOMARC - Field Day & Tailgate Swap Davis Tree Farm & Top of Michigan ARC Elmira (Gaylord), MI Davis Tree Farm - Field Day Site 8378 Van Tyle Road 10 miles west of Gaylord Talk-In: 146.820 (PL 118.8) & 146.52 Simplex Contact: James E. Davis, KC8NTE Email: KC8NTE@arrl.net
JUL	8	Swap and Shop Straits Area Amateur Radio Club Petoskey, MI Petoskey High School 1500 Hill Street http://www.qsl.net/kg8jk Talk-In: 146.68 (PL 110.9) Contact: Cliff Rosebohm, KC8NVI Phone: 231-539-8459 Email: kc8nvi@glccomputers.com
<i>Submitted by David, KC8TTQ</i>		

On The Cheap—From Page 2

No big deal you say, well you have to be on the cheap and calculate what you will really pay. At my station at that exact time, I would pay **\$2.00!** And you'll save even more with their promotions.

How does this happen? Get a Speedway credit card. For the first 60 days you'll get an EIGHT percent discount—after that will receive a FOUR percent discount! So, the \$2.08 at the pump will be \$2.00 on your credit card.

That's not all! Speedway offers an additional incentive called "Speedy Rewards." Using your Rewards card will give you points (10 points per dollar spent) that can accumulate to prizes/gifts etc. I'm just about there with \$25.00 worth of FREE gas!

Now to be sneaky, Speedway has a web page for their stations. So I get on the computer, and call up my local station and I know at that exact time, the posted price; and on that web page, it calculates the price I will end up paying! It does all of the math for me. Yes, you can call up several stations (I keep three in my Favorites) to compare other stations in my area.

How can you go wrong?

I was going to give more suggestion to other items I purchase but space is limited and will mention other "cheaps" in the future; those like, Olive Garden, McDonalds and other "specials" discovered because I was "On The Cheap!"

Please feel free to pass along any "cheaps" you run across — ideas that can be shared by our members; just email me (k8oef@k8uo.com) with your thoughts and I'll put them in the Express. Just think, if every member had just one idea that no one else had, look how frugal we all would become!

Alternative Gas Cards

The Marathon Platinum MasterCard, for example, offers a 10% rebate on Marathon purchases for the first 60 days, with a 5% rebate thereafter. Another option: The Shell MasterCard from Citi Cards, with its 5% rebate. All the cards offer a 1% rebate on other purchases.

At "press time," noon on March 17, the posted price at Speedway was \$2.49—final cost is **\$2.39.**

WalkAmerica—From Page 1

We have the ability to cover 100% of the walk site with just your HT. Make sure that you have your batteries charged. Lunch will be provided for those who come out and give us a hand.

For those of you have worked the Walk in the past we will be using the same vehicle pass that we used in past years. If anyone needs a pass for April 30th, we will make arrangements to meet outside of the park to

get one, or at the next meeting I will have them available. A pass will not be needed for Saturday for set-up, just mention to the person at the entrance booth that your there for WalkAmerica set-up.

So come out from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM, or whatever time you can spare, and be Radio Active! If you need any other information, please contact me on the repeater, or at w8dfg@k8uo.com
73.

Life Span of An Antenna—From Page 3

If too many electrons get lifted up all at once, they overload the antenna, causing a heat mark, or worse getting back into the radio. Now this is why your antenna usually falls down on windy days.

You can extend the life of your antenna by disconnecting it from your radio when you're not listening. But overall, 500 to 1000 hours spent listening will do in a longwire antenna.

—Submitted by Dick, AF8X via
The Axelrods saxelrod@mts.net
APRIL FOOLS!

Meeting Minutes—From Page 4

transmitting, key up, wait a second or 2, and then start talking so that the first syllable is transmitted. Dennis also reported on the recent MARC meeting.

Field Day: Phil, W8IC – described our field day setup for new people. The signup board is present to look over. Sign up for a slot or to help out in any capacity. Please feel free to invite guests.

Swap: Tom, KD8AVF – will be looking for volunteers.

George, K8GEO reported on upcoming swaps. See list elsewhere in the Express.

Old Business

Bill, N8SA reported on the recent Ham University. Small turnout, but successful.

New Business

Jim, W1IK – talked about the Monday night Morse Code Course on our repeater. Looking for more instructors to

help run the 8-week class. Contact Jim if you can help out. Drop an email to w1ik@k8uo.com.

Phil, W8IC reported that the USECA equipment stored in Brian, KC8DIR's garage was inventoried by Scott, WN1B, Dennis, W8DFG and Phil, W8IC. The items will be put on E-bay and our web site for sale. Some additional items were distributed to club members.

Larry, K18HJ talked about the Salvation Army SATERN unit, provided information.

Business portion of the meeting concluded at 8:05 PM.

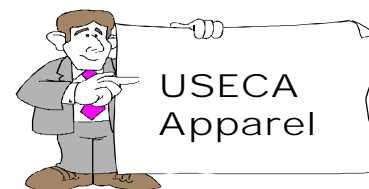
Program provided by Phil, W8IC and Darrell, KA8LGI on direction finding and transmitter hunting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Rich, K8PJQ, supported by Betty, N8SIH, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann, KT8F, Recording Secretary

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

USECA Cork Board

? Radio Items?

ALS 600 Solid State Base Amp. No tune 1.5 to 22 MHz. List \$1129.99; sell for \$1000. (Page 86 in AES catalog) Contact Jerry, K8CFY at: k8cfy@k8uo.com.

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.

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

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

★Kenwood TS-140S. Great condition, in original box with operator and service manual. Only \$395!

★LARSEN dual band glass mount mobile antenna model: KG-2/70. It is used, but in good condition. Only \$45!

★RADIO Chest Pack. This is an all black Lone Peak Designs radio chest pack. You can strap your HT to your chest just like the pros do! These are the very same chest packs used by public service and search and rescue personnel. Many are also used by Hams during public service activity. It is brand new and costs only \$30! The normal price is close to \$35.

Contact Floyd, W8RO at w8ro@k8uo.com or 248-431-7769.

2 REPEATERS. 2 meter and 440. Yaesu Vertex VXR 5000s. CAT 1000 controllers with DVR and WX interface. Wacom cans. Peet Bros weather station. Cabinet. Contact Gerry, K8GER (989) 826-3196 or k8ger@k8uo.com.

WANTED: Motorola Expo batteries in GWO. Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769 or w8ro@k8uo.com

? Miscellaneous Items?

CHEVROLET, 2003 Trailblazer 4WD (W8RO/M). Excellent condition, loaded. Sandlewood exterior, Tan interior. 29K miles. Only \$19,995! For more details, contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769 or w8ro@k8uo.com.

FREE! To a good home: Epson Apex L-1000 Dot Matrix Printer (24 pin). Very good condition with manuals and drivers! Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769 or w8ro@k8uo.com.

SONY/DELL 21" CRT Computer Monitor with manual; like new; 2 years old. \$195. Contact Joe, K8OEF at (586) 781-0050 or k8oef@k8uo.com.

★FOR SALE

COMET SBB5NMO – BRAND NEW!, dual-band 2M/440, blacked-out "stealthy" antenna, with tilt-over feature so you can get in the garage, I bought two from ComDac at the last swap but only needed one (AB8MJ's truck); I paid \$60- and so will you!

TrippLite Power Supply – model PR-40, label sez "13.8V @ 40A", no meters, 1/4"-20 threaded power lugs on the back, power switch on the front, yep, it's heavy!; \$100.

Heathkit HS1661 – external speaker, no cord, good condition; \$50.

American Electrola DXC-100 – rare tabletop radio, only 2000 ever made, all solid state, American made with American components, allegedly the last USA-made SW radio actually made in the USA, HF receiver up to 30 MHz + FM '3M' band, AM/FM/SW, digital LED display, direct entry keypad, wooden case, front firing speaker, large internal wire loop antenna, long telescopic antenna, ext. jack, power supply, original owners manual; \$95.

Radio Shack Micronta 21-525B – SWR/Field strength meter, sold "as is"; \$10.

ROLODEX RT-8214 – electronic organizer, 2Mb of memory, touch screen like PDA, software, pc cable for backups, just got it but looks like I won't use it, so, for sale; \$20.

MFJ-915 – RF Isolator, SO-239 (PL-style) connectors, manual, like new; \$20.

1999 BMW R1100S – email for details and sale flyer; \$5500.

MFJ-956 – tuner, two knobs, 2 SO-239's; \$20.

Adaptor – RCA-style to PL style (SO-239), have a few; \$1.

1/4" Phono – all metal male phono plug, use for mono headphones and such; \$1..

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 three programmable buttons across top, lock switch on back, rotatable lapel clip; \$45.

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

1999 NIGHTHAWK – Honda 750cc 4-cylinder Nighthawk motorcycle, black, 18k miles, new aftermarket windshield added, email to get a sale flyer; Clymers shop manual; \$2600.

Dummy Load – "twin tower" dual massive ceramic resistors, looks like 50+W easy; \$15.

1N3085 – huge 100V 150A recovery diodes, have one left; \$10-/each.

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; \$20.

Wall Warts – various voltages, email with needs; \$2 to \$5.

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; \$5.

K40 -- 10/11M base-loaded antenna with SS whip, no base for it just antenna; \$10.

Regency CB-501 -- 40 ch CB radio, with mic, "as is"; \$10.

Coit 220 – 40 ch CB radio, with mic and power cord, "as is"; \$10.

Contact Arpad, WY8M at: wym8@arrl.net or, 147.180+ MHz (100 Hz PL).

Name Badges

WITH THE OFFICIAL USECA LOGO

CONTACT LAURA — (586) 749-4561



★New or changed this month.

Please notify the editor to have item(s) added and/or removed.

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

USECA APPLICATION



Rev. 3/06

DATE _____ NEW RENEWAL
 CALL _____ CLASS _____
 NAME _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 TELEPHONE # _____ PRINT # IN ROSTER YES NO
 BIRTHDATE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____
 MEMBER: **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
 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	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/DESCRIPTION	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	3.710
FRI	11:00 pm	USECA/10 Meter Phone USB	28.425

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

Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM	SUN. 8 PM**
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
1	VA3IDJ	W1IK
2	KT8F	N8EB
3	-OPEN-	W8RIT
4	-OPEN-	KW8Z
5*	WB8E	-OPEN-

*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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL

APRIL 2006

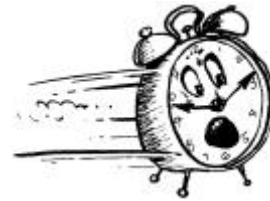
A new computer model suggests the next solar cycle will be more active than the previous one, potentially spawning magnetic storms that will be more disruptive to communication systems on Earth.

The next sunspot cycle will be between 30 percent to 50 percent more intense than the last one.

The cycle will also begin a year later than expected, in late 2007 or early 2008, and peak around 2012, said Mausumi Dikpati of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado.

—Internet

From David, KC8TTQ—Additional sunspot information:
<http://www.ucar.edu/news/releases/2006/sunspot.shtml>



*Spring Ahead...
Sunday, April 2nd*

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
APR	6	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
APR	11	7:30 pm	General Meeting
APR	30		WalkAmerica—Metro Beach
MAY	9	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	11	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
MAY	13		Pre-Field Day & Picnic
MAY	19-21		Dayton Hamvention
JUN	1	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
JUN	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting & Fox Hunt
JUN	24-25		Field Day
SEP	7	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
SEP	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting
OCT	5	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
OCT	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting
OCT	29	8:00 am	USECA 21st Annual Swap
NOV	2	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
NOV	7	7:30 pm	General Meeting (Nominations)
DEC	7	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
DEC	TBA	7:00 pm	USECA 19th Annual Christmas Party
DEC	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting (Elections)

Inside This Issue

USECA'S 2006 Pre-Field Day.....	1
2006 Michigan QSO Party.....	1
Eat B 4 U Meet.....	1
WalkAmerica 2006.....	1
Still Going.....	2
On The Cheap.....	2
Revised Scanner Legislation.....	3
Life Span of An Antenna.....	3
USECA Meeting Minutes.....	4
SATERN Support of Super Bowl XL	6
USECA Club Liaison.....	8
USECA VE Testing.....	9
USECA Apparel.....	9
USECA Cork Board.....	10
USECA Membership Application....	11
Local Area FM and HF Nets.....	11
Net Ops Schedule.....	11
Club Activities (Cover)	