



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC. Volume 15, Number 10, December 1999

Election:

Nominees

The nominations for club officers at the November meeting were as follows:

- President**
Debbi, KB8YYB
- Vice President**
Nancy, KB8QMS (I)
Dave, W8VB
- Recording Secretary**
Ann, KG8IF
- Treasurer**
Delphine, KC8JSH
- Membership Secretary**
Marianne, N8TMJ
- Board Member (3 Elected)**
Dave, KC8IAQ (I)
Mark, W8IR
Jerry, N8KLX
Dreux, KB8YYA
Jerry, K8CFY
Dave, KC8IZG

(I) Incumbent

Absentee Ballots

The voting for club officers will take place at the December General Meeting. If you would like an absentee ballot to cast your vote, please contact Jim, N8OKW or Marianne, N8TMJ at (810) 677-1667. The ballots are to be returned by mail to: USECA Ballot, P.O. Box 1222, Sterling Heights, MI 48311, and must arrive prior to the December 14th meeting.

Y2K Elections! Vote!

Ken, N8KC

BE SURE TO VOTE in the upcoming Millennial elections for USECA's Y2K leadership! Voting will take place at our December General Membership meeting, Dec. 14th. If you cannot make the meeting, it is still possible to vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots will be available though Jim N8OKW—you must make the arrangements to pick them up and get them delivered. Absentee ballots must be in the hands of the ballot counters prior to the meeting (hand delivered, etc) If you mail them, be sure to mail at least a week early! Late ballots will be invalid. Remember, the elections are not a popularity contest — vote for those members who you've seen work at building USECA and are involved in club affairs. See ya' at the polls!



24-Hour Packet Nets

Jerry, KB8TAS

WHEN I WAS a new Ham in 1994, one of the first things I tried was Packet Radio. It was great fun sending e-mail, Dxing, using the local BBS, looking up call signs and reading bulletins from the ARRL. As time went by, I saw more and more Hams put their TNC's away and move on to other ham activities, leaving a large void in Packet activity in this area. Repeated efforts to renew interest have not paid off until now—Ken, N8KC, has started a 24-hour Packet Net on 145.030 "MACEOC." For more information contact Ken, N8KC, Jerry, KB8TAS or Dreux, KB8YYA. For information on the Packet Ham Web, that was in the November issue of QST, contact John, NS8E.

From the Desk of

LA GRAND WAZOO

WELL FELLOW USECAN'S the nominations for the December's election is printed here in the award-winning *Express*. If you know now that you are unable to attend the next meeting, please contact Jim N8OKW to receive an absentee ballot. Please exercise your right to vote, or go one step farther and run for a position. Nominations will be reopened at the December meeting, before voting takes place.

In June I was asked if I was going to run for a fourth term as president. I had already given this question some thought, and decided that three terms was fulfilling enough. It is time for fresh blood to step in and keep this club moving forward. We have been able to maintain a high level of participation to keep USECA a top-notch club.

Naturally I wasn't able to do this myself—the prez is as only good as his membership allows. I have many people to thank who made the past three years good ones. I had two vice-presidents, Dave, W8VB (97) and Nancy, KB8QMS (98 & 99).

—Continued on Page 13



Next Meeting — December 14

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG, (810) 465-7126
Vice President	Nancy Carr/KB8QMS, (810) 749-3383
Recording Secretary	Debbi Cokewell/KB8YYB, (810) 263-0227
Treasurer	Jim Mickle/N8OKW, (810) 677-1667
Membership Secretary	Mark Milby/W8IR, (810) 293-3603
Past President	Floyd Soo/W8RO, (248) 391-6660

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Cunningham/KC8IAQ, (810) 791-2720
Ann Manor/KG8IF, (810) 751-3893
Marianne Mickle/N8TMJ, (810) 677-1667



COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison	Dave/W8VB
Awards Manager	Delphine/KC8JSH
Door Prizes	Dina/N8YJI
Editor	Joe/K8OEF, (810) 781-0050
Field Day Chair	Jerry/N8KLX, (810) 558-7729
Health & Welfare	Marianne/N8TMJ, (810) 677-1667
Historians	Jerry/K8CFY & Ann/KG8IF
Mailers/Sorters	Ann/KG8IF; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
Net Manager	Brian/KC8DIR, (810) 749-4561
Photographer	Richard/K8QLM
Program Director	Nancy/KB8QMS
Public Relations Officer	Ken/N8KC
Refreshments	Marianne/N8TMJ & Don/KC8CPT
Repeater Trustee	Bill/N8SA
Swap & Shop	Dave/KC8IAQ, (810) 791-2720
Technical Director	John/K8ZEC, (248) 828-3742
Technicians	K8FT; WA8GQL; KC8IAQ; N8KND; WY8M; N8MIV; KB8PEV; N8SA
Trash-For-Cash	—Open—

CONTROL OPERATORS

Dennis/W8DFG	Dave/KC8IAQ	Nancy/KB8QMS
Doug/K8DK	Mark/W8IR	Floyd/W8RO
Gordy/WB8H	Joe/K8OEF	Bill/N8SA
		Gulliver/WA8VIJ

PROGRAMMERS

Gordy/WB8H	Doug/N8KND	Bill/N8SA
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VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS

WW1AW	K8EN	WA8IZV	KA8NDY	W8RO	K8WI
AB8BT	AA8HF	WA8JPR	W8NG	N8SA	KB8WTH
AA8CY	KG8IE	N8KC	N8OEF	N8SN	
KM5D	W1IK	WX3L	N8OZ	W8VB	
WB8E	W8IR	WY8M	KG8QT	WY8W	

SILENT KEYS

Len Czapiewski/K8DHH	Joe Steel/KA8IZM	Harry Young/W8VRW
Art Sheff/WD8EGV	Rick Parady/KB8KLW	Velma Ragon/N8YVC
Joe Lucido/NU8F	John Moore/KA8KTV	John Tomlins/KG8YX
Charles Smith/N8FWF	John Palmer/WD8LBH	
Clarence Ringo/W8HQO	John Pizzuti/WB8NHT	

f=Founder c=Charter h=Hon. Charter

N8AVV h	N8HCT f c	WB8OSF h
KA8BDG c	KA8IZM f c SK	K8QLM f c
N8BK h	KA8KTV f c SK	WB8QNI c
N8FDN c	G. Manquardt h	KA8VYV h
N8FNO f c	WD8MFN f c	WA8VZZ c SK
J. Haubner c	WD8NHT f c	

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF



Past: The entire editorial staff wishes to award our famous *Golden Crystal Award* to Debbi, KB8YYB for her outstanding work to put together a very, very successful swap. It's her TNT (time and talent) she graciously gave to our club. She's not only our Recording Secretary, but is running for President—now there's a real team member!

Present: The nominations are listed in this *Express*. By the looks of it, many of the members' information will be changing in our Club Directory (column on the left), next month. While you're looking at that column, note that the Control Operators entry has been revised.

Nominations! Christmas Party! Elections! Excitement reigns! Remember the magic of "TNT." This is who should be elected—people who have TNT. TNT is the basis of this club's success and survival. This is serious "stuff." Choose wisely!

Future: Nominees: The success of the club's future is in your hands; as a team it can continue to survive and prosper. Good luck to all the nominees! I trust you will take this a bit more serious than it's, "just a hobby." It's up to you! There are a lot of people who will depend on you. Be pro-active and keep this club going in the direction that will maintain its continual growth and success. Speaking of prospering, the entire editorial staff (same one), wishes each and every one of you a very safe and happy holiday season.

73 for now.



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Are You A No-Code Tech?

Ken, N8KC

EVER GET THE feeling you're missing something? This article was written for **YOU!**

Have you noticed lately that some of the conversations on the repeater are about things you can't seem to relate to as a no-code Tech? (others chasing DX on 10 meters, Slow Scan TV on 10 & 20m, packages of QSL cards from the ARRL Bureau, etc.) Have you been wondering lately if there was something more to Ham radio than 2m FM and the local repeater? Do you sometimes feel like you're *missin'* something—out of the loop? Well, I hate to say it, but to a great extent, you are!

Even if you're one of those rare No-Coders who's into 6m, 2mSSB/CW/SSTV, APRS, Packet, or even working the "birds" (amateur satellites), you're still missin' out on some of the hottest HF band conditions in years. If you've had the chance at Field Day, you've already operated a little bit of HF—how can you be content with just that tiny morsel? Oh yeah, I'll grant ya' that workin' 2 meter DX can be exciting. Yep! Workin' that station in Marion, Ohio with the big 2 meter beam can be a thrill, but it begins to pale in comparison to chatting with and *seeing* a fellow ham in France on SSTV via 10 or 20 meters (code required to operate here!).

Have you ever received a package from the "Bureau"? I tell ya', there aren't too many better ways to start your day than a cup of coffee and a package full of QSL cards from all over the world! Working DX on VHF can net you several states—maybe even all of 'em if you've got a kilowatt and live on a mountain. Working DX on HF with even QRP power can mean working the world. Africa, Europe, South America, Central America, Asia, and the Far East are all doable from your home with only minimal station requirements (but—once again, code required!).

Have you ever worked an AM station? One with a broadcast-quality signal? I realize there may be a few 6m AM stations on the air occasionally, but on 10, 40, 75, & 160 meters,

they're quite common. Nothin', and I mean **nothin'**, beats the audio of a full carrier AM station! (oh jeeeee, code's required!)

You say you like FM repeaters? What would you say to operating through a 10 meter FM repeater where talking to DX countries is routine? The repeater might be located in the Virgin Islands and the ham you QSO with may be in Argentina—sound exciting? (nuts! —code's required to do that too!)

Are you into the digital side of radio? Did you like the DX links like WU8C/DETQSO had going for years, but no longer seem to be operating? How 'bout trying HF Packet on for size? Connect direct with hams across the Atlantic and Pacific! Maybe you'd like experimenting with AMTOR, PACTOR, or RTTY? (*#!*!... damn, code required here too!)

You say you like nets? Have you any idea how many HF nets there are? HF nets cover just about every topic you could imagine. Trader nets, religions of all flavors nets, DX nets, traffic nets, CW nets, SSB nets, AM nets, Elmer nets, retiree nets, Handicapped-Ham nets, weather nets, Maritime nets, Mobile nets, county-hunter nets—you name it, we got a net for it on HF! (uh-oh, did he say HF? . . . code required!)

As a prospective No-Code Tech, you studied to earn the right to operate on over 90% of the bandwidth allotted to **ALL** amateurs, Novice through Extra—not *too* shabby for what's billed as an *introductory* license! But the dirty little secret they didn't tell ya' was that 90% of all amateur radio *activity* is on the **HF** bands! I've got a scanner on my desk programmed with darn near every VHF/UHF repeater and simplex frequency used in the metro area (6m, 2m, 220 MHz, 440 MHz, & 1.2 GHz), including satellite links and other amateur frequencies of interest. When it's in scan mode, I think you'd be surprised at how often it's silent throughout the course of the day.

That is **NOT** the case on the HF bands—no matter *what* time of day it is, *regardless* of sunspot activity, there

is *always* activity to be found on the HF bands. Sure, 10 meters might be dead on a given day, but chances are 40 meters will be hoppin' on that same day! Unlike the VHF/UHF bands available to no-coders, at least a few of the HF bands are always open to somewhere—on HF we don't have to keep our scanners on to tell us when there's a band opening to work DX—we quite simply, turn on the rig and work some!

Soooooo, are you tired of being a no-code yet? Wanna' be a "**know-code**" instead? Well, if you do, give me a call on the repeater or by phone (248) 652-1187 and we'll discuss what it'll take to get you there from where you are now. I swear, it's *really* not all that hard! Don't think of it as something you can't do! I used to hate code. I only did the 5 wpm to get on 10m SSB (figured I'd throw away my key once I passed the test!) I thought it was something I would never master and seemed to take me forever to learn. But I now enjoy CW as a second language. Look at it this way too—the FCC Amateur license restructuring will be coming in what I feel is just a few weeks or months. The new regulations are almost sure to drop CW requirements to two levels, 5 wpm for general class, and 12 wpm for extra. If you pass the 5 wpm code exam now, you'll have only a *single* written exam standing between you and your General Class license. (To look a bit *further* into the future, only *one more* written exam gets you an Advanced!) If you can't catch me, don't hesitate to ask Uncle Walt (WB8E) and some of the other CW enthusiasts for their ideas on how to get you to 5 wpm—but let's not talk about it . . . **Just DO it!**



A Lost Cause?

15 Meter CW Nets

Ken, N8KC

WONDER . . . should USECA forsake holding 15 meter CW nets? It sure seems that very few are interested locally in honing their CW skills with friends anymore. Scheduled NCOs, who *asked for* their assigned time slots, regularly fail to hold their nets and just as regularly, fail to recruit a substitute NCO. If it weren't for a very few dedicated individuals, our CW nets probably would've already faded into oblivion.

USECA's been holding a 15-meter CW net for quite some time. The net(s) has been plugging along for at least 10 years that I'm aware of and, as USECA's old Awards Manager, I remember seeing awards for 15-meter CW nets that date back almost 15 years. It'd truly be a shame to see that fine tradition fade! Can't we do *something* to reverse this decline?

I know, by this point in the article, you're all sayin', "I can't remember the last time I heard N8KC check in." Unfortunately, I work 2nd shift and the nets are usually closed long before I hit the road home. I always check the frequency though, and every once in a while, if I'm lucky and the net runs long, I get a chance to check in while mobile. I usually try to run one of the nets if I'm home and have run them several times from my car—but, I'm straying from the subject.

USECA's CW nets have never come close

to our VHF/FM nets in attendance. Our VHF nets routinely have from 20 to as many as 100 check-ins, whereas our CW nets generally generate only 3 to 8 check-ins. One of my *biggest* disappointments with the CW net has been the makeup of these check-ins. It seems we have a *very* small core group that make up the majority of check-ins and *most* of these are Extra Class hams (not to imply that they're unwelcome, they're a part of the talent pool we hope to tap to foster more CW operation and upgrades).

Back when I was Awards Manager, I saw the same call signs week after week after week. Is it *that* hard to attract a few newcomers? Where have all of the Novice, Tech+, and

General class licensees gone?

Aren't *you* interested in upgrading? For those of you at 5 wpm, the coming FCC Amateur licensing overhaul will mean that you'll probably get General Class privileges after taking only a written exam. Why not practice for your 13 wpm exam now, get that behind you and have only written exams standing between you and an Extra Class ticket! (The FCC proposals make it look like 5 wpm & 13 wpm will be the General & Extra code requirements after the new licensing procedures take effect.)

Personally, I can't think of a better way to hone your CW skills than our 15-meter CW nets. Where better to practice your newfound (or rusty) CW

skills than with your buddies in USECA? Our 15-meter NCOs have always been patient with newcomers and will run any CW speed you require. (Keep in mind that the Thursday net is for slow speed and the Friday net for higher speeds. Net times are listed in this *Express*.) Be sure to check-in at a speed *you* can copy—the NCO will generally try to match the speed *you* checked in at. So, come on! Join USECA on 15 meters for some fun and practice and hey! if you can bring along someone else to the net, that'd be way mo' betta'! See ya' on the net!



USECA
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday * December 11, 1999

6:30 P.M. • Cocktails (cash bar)
7:30 P.M. • Buffet Dinner
\$16.00 per person • Cash or Check (payable to USECA)
See Ann, KG8IF

WHITE ELEPHANT
(BRING ONE • GET ONE)

FAMILY AND FRIENDS
WELCOME!

Gar Wood's Bayview Lodge
41630 Conger Bay Drive
Harrison Township



—Compliments of Debbi, KB8YB

Menu

BEEF TIPS & NOODLES
CHICKEN
VEGETABLE
SALAD
COFFEE & SOFT DRINKS
"OFFICIAL" USECA CAKE
TAX & GRATUITIES INCLUDED

Amateurs vs. Pros Revisited

Floyd, W8RO

IN OUR LAST installment, we discussed amateur communications in general, and how we hams can improve upon our communications skills. The overwhelming positive response to that treatise has resulted in us delving into the subject further. Most of the replies agreed that the use of phonetics on a medium as clean as a FM repeater was superfluous. A few commented on "inefficient" habits that do nothing to enhance communications.

First, allow me to clarify my stance about phonetics. It is interesting to note that at times, use of phonetics on the repeater actually confuses some operators. After some discussions with other hams, the consensus seems to be that if you are not intimately familiar with the use of phonetics, it will actually be counter-productive to use them in that instance! It's akin to learning and using Morse Code. If you have to consciously think about what you've just heard before you can figure out what Morse character it is, you don't know the code well enough to carry on a comfortable QSO. The same goes for phonetics. IF you find it necessary to use them, you better be competent with that skill. You should not have to consciously think "Uhhhh, UNCLE, yeah, that's a U; yeah, that's it!" If that is what goes on in your head when you hear phonetics, you need to bring your level of skill up to where (like in Morse Code), there is no conscious thought to figure out what letter or character was just referenced. This brings us to NON-STANDARD phonetics. For the aforementioned reason, namely, unfamiliarity; the use of non-standard phonetics should be verboten in any important communications. Let's leave all that "Able Baker Charlie, Roger, Fox, Dog, this is Tokyo, Zanzibar, Yokohama, Santiago..." junk on 11 meters or on the silver screen!

I still believe that 99% of the time, there is no reason to use phonetics on a FM repeater. When their use is justified, though, you need to be comfortable and competent with them, otherwise, the communications

will be slow and laborious! In my opinion, ALL hams should be skilled in the use of standard ITU phonetics, so if and when their use is justified, you won't be tripping all over yourself trying to send or receive them! Just as the FCC rule that says to use the amount of power necessary to maintain reliable communications (no more, no less), common sense dictates that we use phonetics only when necessary!

On the subject of inefficient habits, let's look at a couple of examples. First, we have to understand that communicating well, requires a lot of practice. The skill and prowess demonstrated by the professionals I mentioned in the first installment did not come to them overnight. It took years of training, practice and experience to achieve that level of competence with the mic in their hands. The first time you listened to an ATC, or the Coast Guard, or the radio traffic between the astronauts and mission control, or CB for that matter; was everything obvious and apparent to you? Of course not! Not only do you have to develop an ear for radio traffic, you also have to develop an ear for the particular "lingo" that is in use. Then, you also have to be aware of the procedures in use. Then, you also have to be able to "talk" that way, as well as listen. It takes a lot of time to acquire those skills. I have always maintained that we are "practicing" every time that we turn the radio on. It is human nature that we will do what we are in the habit of doing, especially under pressure. If we are in the habit of inefficient communications everyday, we will demonstrate inefficient communications when called on to assist in an emergency. It will then be a struggle to change our habits and try to be "professional" all of a sudden.

So what are some examples of inefficient communications? I'll toss out a few examples. If you find yourself using some of these, don't take offense. Use the same test we discussed in the first installment, "Does the use of this word or phrase enhance the effectiveness of my communications for everyone involved...?" If it doesn't,

change it so it does, or eliminate it. First, "...nothing heard...", "...negative response...", This phrase is redundant on a repeater. Everyone listening to the repeater heard the same dead air that the caller did! This phrase has meaning on HF or maybe even simplex, where there is a possibility that propagation may not support communications between all stations on a particular frequency. This is not the case on a FM repeater! Dump this one, it has no good purpose on a repeater! How about "...in the mobile"? Let's see, I can get exactly the same point across by saying "...mobile", then who needs to know that a station is mobile anyway? The FCC doesn't care anymore, why should anyone else? If you're going to use one of these, use the most efficient one, "...mobile". I'm never "on", "beside", "in front of", "behind", or "underneath" the mobile (I hope!). I am just plain old "mobile"! Pretty simple! How about those "position reports" on every transmission? I haven't figured those out yet, either! Can you say "superfluous"? Another one is, "...W8DFG to take it, along with K8CFY, N8SA mobile, KB8QMS, KC8IAQ mobile, K8QLM, WY8M portable, KC8HMJ mobile, KC8DIR portable, K8DK, W8HGV, and KA8LGI in the mobile; this is W8RO clear and mobile and listening...". Yep, I'm gonna prove to everyone listening that I can remember some call signs at drive time, no matter HOW long it takes! Well, the turning it over to another station is not a bad thing to do, but the rest of that garbage?? Did it really enhance anything at all? Nope! It was all useless clutter that wasted a lot of time. I could go on, but I'll spare all of you any further pain! (HI!)

—Continued on Page 14

The FCC

Think the FCC's a paper tiger? Then you ain't been paying much attention. This is Uncle Charlie's activity just for the week of November 5.

BOCA RATON, FL: The FCC sent a Warning Notice October 22, 1999, to Technician licensee Anthony J. Lomenzo, KD4DVW, citing evidence that the licensee had been "deliberately and maliciously interfering with repeater operations" in his area. "This interference has occurred at various times in the past year and includes obscenity, profanity and one-way broadcasting," said a letter from FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth. The FCC identified the repeaters as N4MOT on 147.225 MHz and WB4QNX on 145.29 MHz. Hollingsworth requested that Lomenzo contact him to discuss the allegations.

CINCINNATI, OH: The FCC requested October 28, 1999, that Stuart L. Linder, N8WLY, retake his Technician class amateur examinations under the supervision of an ARRL-VEC team. Linder must appear for retesting by November 30, 1999, or his license will be cancelled.

COVINA, CA [UPDATE]: Following up on a September 15 inquiry, the FCC wrote Technician licensee Thomas R. Reynolds, KF6UJP, October 25 to cancel four club station call signs granted in the last six months for which he is the responsible party. FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said Reynolds failed to respond to the September 15 request to provide satisfactory justification for the call signs within 30 days.

DAMASCUS, MD: The FCC sent an Advisory Notice October 26, 1999, to Technician Plus licensee Robert A. Lutz, W2BZR, reminding him of the power limitations that apply to Tech Plus licensees under §97.313 of the FCC's rules. That section says, in part, that no station may transmit with a power exceeding 200 W PEP on the 80, 40, and 15-meter Novice/Tech Plus subbands; on the segment 28.1 to 28.5 MHz when the control operator is a Novice or Technician; and on the entire 30-meter band.

LA CRESCENTA, CA: The FCC requested October 26, 1999, that Norman C. Ball, KE6VWN, retake his Technician class amateur examinations under the supervision of the FCC. Ball must appear for retesting by November 30, 1999, or his license will be cancelled.

PLANO, TX: The FCC sent a Warning Notice October 28, 1999, to General licensee James R. Mason, K5DWO, citing evidence that the licensee had been "deliberately and maliciously interfering with repeater operations" in the McKinney, Texas, area. "This interference has occurred at various times in the past year and includes obscenity, profanity and one-way broadcasting," said a letter from FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth. The FCC identified the repeater as W5MRC in McKinney. Hollingsworth requested that Mason contact him to discuss the allegations.

ROLLING HILLS ESTATE, CA [UPDATE]: Following up on a July 28 inquiry concerning two club station call signs in the name of the Ortega Wireless League, the FCC wrote Extra licensee Denis B. Munier, KC7E, on October 28, to cancel club station call sign WR6J. The FCC specifically

had requested information regarding K6HF and WR6J and noted that that "the Ortega entity has least 10 other club call signs" (for which James H. Roach, KD6VWK, is the responsible party; see below—Ed). The FCC had requested that Munier provide justification in writing for the club station call signs "in view of the other club call signs held by Ortega." The FCC said it had reviewed Munier's response and "pursuant to your response, we have cancelled WR6J."

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA [UPDATE]: Following up on a July 28 inquiry concerning 15 club station call signs, the FCC wrote Extra licensee James H. Roach, KD6VWK, on October 28, 1999, to cancel nine club station call signs at the licensee's request. The FCC had asked Roach to provide justification in writing for at least 15 club station call signs for which he is the responsible party. Roach responded August 27 submitting the requested information and requested to retain four of the call signs, all in the name of Ortega Wireless League. The FCC asked Roach to indicate within 30 days his intentions regarding two other call signs (W6BSA and W6GS—under other club names), for which he is the responsible party.

TALLAHASSEE, FL: The FCC sent a Warning Notice October 28, 1999, to General licensee Fred C. Hening, K4MPI, citing evidence that the licensee had "used the call sign KG4US, a call sign not assigned to you, to identify your station, and that you have operated using that call sign on 3.793 MHz, a frequency not assigned to General class licensees." The letter from FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth warned that repeated instances of this type of operation could result in a fine and revocation proceedings. Hollingsworth requested that Hening contact him, if he had questions about the matter.

—Submitted by Ken, N8KC



December Contests

- 3-5 ARRL 160-meter Contest
ORP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint, CW,
TOPS Activity 3.5 MHz CW Contest
- 11-13 ARRL 10-Meter Contest.
- 18-21 OK DX RTTY Contest
Croatian CW Contest
Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge
RAC Winter Contest
International Naval Contest.
- 31 ARRL Straight Key Night.

America: The Good Neighbor

WIDESPREAD, BUT ONLY partial news coverage was given recently to a remarkable editorial broadcast from Toronto by Gordon Sinclair, a Canadian television commentator. What follows is the full text of his trenchant remarks as printed in the congressional Record:

"This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth. Germany, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts. None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States.

When the franc was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it.

When distant cities are hit by earthquakes, it is the United States that hurries in to help. This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped.

The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, warmongering Americans. I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States Dollar build its own airplane.

Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tristar, or the Douglas 10? If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all the International lines except Russia fly American Planes?

Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or woman on the moon? You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy, and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy, and you find men on the moon—not once, but several times—and safely home again.

You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at. Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them, unless they are breaking Canadian laws, are

getting American dollars from ma and pa at home to spend here.

When the railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the American who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke.

I can name you 5,000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone else raced to the Americans in trouble? I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake. Our neighbors have faced it alone, and I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them get kicked around.

They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles. I hope Canada is not one of those."

73, Walt Wade, KE6HQA

From a Toronto newspaper's editorial page!

—Submitted by George, WA8SUJ

Amateur Restructuring Details Possible By Year's End

Knowledgeable sources in Washington say the amateur license restructuring issue has moved to the front burner at the FCC, and a Report and Order could be released before the end of 1999.

The Amateur Radio community has been awaiting license restructuring—known officially as the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97 (WT Docket 98-143)—for nearly one year now. While no one has mentioned a hard—and—fast date to wrap up the long—awaited proceeding, reports from several sources suggest that the R&O draft is in its final stages and could be complete within a month or so.

During a recent visit to top FCC officials in Washington, League officials pressed again for early action on the license restructuring rulemaking. They were assured that the issue was not stalled and that the Wireless Telecom-

munications Bureau was "working very actively" to move restructuring along.

Whatever its final form—and no one has hinted at that—license restructuring poses significant implications for Amateur Radio and its future direction and growth.

On August 10, 1998, the FCC proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes in place—Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no specific recommendations.

At its July 1998 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors—attempting to get the jump on Restructuring—issued its own plan to restyle Amateur Radio. Among

other details, the ARRL plan also calls for four license classes and for "refarming" Novice/Tech Plus subbands to provide additional spectrum for higher—class operators. Under the League plan, the Technician license remains unchanged, and the General becomes the entry—level ticket to HF operation. The ARRL proposed Morse code requirements of 5 WPM for General and 12 WPM for Advanced and Extra class.

The restructuring debate generated more than 2200 comments to the FCC, many of them from individual amateurs. Once the FCC approves the Report & Order, a Public Notice will be issued, and the actual R&O will be released probably within a few days.

—ARRL

In My Opinion . . .

By Donald L. Stoner, W6TNS

The following, written a few years back by my friend Don Stoner, W6TNS, (SK) bears repeating, even if he does use the word "magic" in it his organization, NARA, is defunct, but the message he states in his editorial is still absolutely valid.

73, de Hans, KOHB

IN NOVEMBER OF 1988, the Federal Communications Commission slipped a bomb into our hamshacks and lit the fuse. The FCC announced they were reallocating a portion of the 220 MHz band to a new communications service based on a petition submitted by United Parcel Service. Our national organization, The American Radio Relay League has tried to snuff out the fuse and get the decision reversed. But as far as I can tell, the 220-222 MHz part of the band is a goner!

How could this have happened? Well, for starters, we took the Amateur Radio Service and our fraternity for granted. It never occurred to us that the FCC might give some of "our" frequencies away just because we didn't use them.

The FCC even warned us of their intention. In 1984, Robert Foosaner was Chief of the FCC Private Radio Bureau. He indicated in a CQ Magazine interview that the band was not being used adequately. Mr. Foosaner flatly stated it might be assigned to other services. Unfortunately we didn't believe him.

I have a theory that the FCC confiscated these frequencies to send Amateurs a message. I believe the message is "shape up or ship out." Warm up the tar and start collecting feathers if you like, but in my opinion, the Commission did Amateurs an enormous favor. A two MHz slice of radio frequency spectrum is a small price to pay for awakening us from our long sleep.

The Amateur Radio Service is coming back to life after 20 or more years of being totally oblivious to the changes taking place all around us. Amateurs are starting to ask how they can contribute to the fraternity. They want to improve themselves and they want to see the service revitalized. They want more young people to

enjoy Amateur Radio. Teachers, particularly those who are Amateurs, are beginning to realize how the service can be used to educate our youngsters in a number of disciplines.

This metamorphosis also happened to your humble editor in November of 1988. I've enjoyed Amateur Radio for almost 40 years. In the 50's and 60's I wrote a number of books and articles for Amateurs. I have also taken the Amateur Radio Service for granted. I'm as guilty as anyone. But that stopped when we lost part of the 220 MHz band. The National Amateur Radio Association became more than just a gleam in my eye.

What Are The Goals of NARA?

Broadly speaking, the goal of The National Amateur Radio Association is the promotion of ham radio. The organization has four specific goals within this broad framework. These are to

- a.) publicize or market Amateur Radio to the general public,
- b.) attract young people to the Amateur Radio Service,
- c.) help existing Amateurs achieve the greatest benefit from the Amateur Radio Service and
- d.) make Amateurs aware that our radio frequencies are in jeopardy from commercial interests. Here are some of my specific thoughts on these four areas:

Marketing Amateur Radio To The Public

Many people don't understand the significance of marketing and sales. The difference is very germane to this discussion.

Let's say you go into a ham radio store and tell the person behind the counter you want to buy an ICOM IC-781. He or she takes your order along with your money and hands you a radio. In this instance the person is simply an order taker and not even a sales person. A sales person tries to convince you to buy a specific product but they are not marketeers. The people who publish the brochures, run the advertisements and create your desire to own the IC-781 are the marketeers. Marketing creates the desire to have something.

For as long as I can remember, we hams have been order takers. We have not been salespersons and by no stretch of the imagination could be called marketeers of ham radio. If someone expressed their desire to be a ham, or an ex-CB'er convinced us they were a born-again communicator, we'd "take their order" and accept them into our ranks. Until recently, we never tried to be salespersons or marketeers for our hobby.

Deep down inside the human brain, is a little grey glob that scientists label the "I've got mine" lobe. In this area of the Amateur's brain is stored the feeling that we really don't want any more hams than we already have. We'll never admit it, even to ourselves, but the feeling is there. More hams equal more QRM, more problems with the FCC and more drift away from the way things used to be in the "good ole days."

More is not always better. More people with an Amateur Radio license may not have a positive or beneficial effect on the Amateur Service. We must mold and shape these people in the traditions that have guided us since the early part of the century. How we accomplish this will be the subject of articles in future issues of this journal.

Attracting Young People

When I was a kid, ham radio was a young peoples hobby. My best friend was a guy named Barry Windsor. Barry and I were fascinated by ham radio. We used to go over to Sid Dunn's house every Saturday morning. I never saw Sid without a cigar in his mouth. It was just another one of his appendages. When the end of his "stoggie" would get all goopy and slobbery, he'd line it up on the edge of the workbench, along with the other stubs, to dry out.

—Continued

Anyway, Sid used to take time each week to teach us about ham radio. He'd work somebody in Upper Slobovia on 20 meters and our eyes would stand out on six inch stems. Then Sid would tell us the reason he could do this was (insert lecture here) his three element beam and how it worked, or the 304TL amplifier and how it worked, or radio propagation and how it worked. You get the idea.

Barry and I and some of the other kids pecked away at keys rather unsuccessfully trying to learn the Morse code. I lost track of the others but finally made the grade when the FCC, in their infinite wisdom, created the Novice and Technician license.

Somehow, somehow, we must resurrect the magic aura that existed back in Sid's hamshack. Essentially, we must try to give something back to our fraternity in exchange for all the wonderful things it has given us.

It's not going to be easy! Today kids have computers, Nintendo games, cars, the opposite sex and Madonna, MTV and a million other distractions. We've taken the first step to redress the problem of attracting young people by creating a new "code-free" license. What this license becomes, and whether it is successful in attracting newcomers is entirely up to us. If we don't tell anyone about the Amateur Radio Service and how easy it is to become a ham, the new Technician Class license will be a "dud." In short, we must all make an effort to /b1 market ham radio to the public.

In marketing, you commonly give away a sample which gets the "hook in and set," to use a fishing metaphor. That's what the new Technician license can do that for our fraternity. It can be the "hook" that we use to attract people to Amateur Radio.

But we must get out and hustle the service to young people. That's where NARA comes in. We intend to tell our members how to recruit youngsters. We intend to print stories about how others have done it successfully.

We believe the place to recruit youngsters is in the schools as early as possible. Again, we are going to have a lot to say about our schools in future issues of "The Amateur Radio Communicator."

Helping Existing Hams

Like it or not, a lot of hams passed their written test simply by memorizing the questions and the correct answer. Why not? What's wrong with that? You memorize the code don't you?

But these hams are not particularly proud of the fact they don't understand the answers or even the questions. They are curious about the technical aspects of the Amateur Radio Service.

I have yet to meet a ham that does not want to improve him or herself. Some Volunteer Examiners have established classes to teach people how to become a ham. Who has a class to teach you how to upgrade from Novice/Technician to General? Very few, I suspect.

Each issue of "The Amateur Radio Communicator" will have a theory article. Hopefully they will be as useful and interesting to existing hams as well as to newcomers. If you have specific questions that you would like to see answered in this publication, send them to "Editor—A Touch Of Class".

Preservation Of "Our" Frequencies

I put the word "our" in quotes. We seem to think of the radio spectrum as "ours." A number of bands of fre-

quencies are loaned for our use, by the Federal Communications Commission. We can continue to use them so long as it is in the national interest to do so. Make no mistake about it fellow hams. The FCC did not let us use parts of the radio spectrum because they think we are nice guys or gals. They do so because it is more in the national interest to loan these frequencies to the Amateur Radio Service than to someone else. If that equation changes, more frequencies will be lost to other activities which are perceived by the FCC to better advance the national interest.

In November 1988, the FCC brought the point forcibly to our attention. They reminded us, once again, "If you don't use 'em, you're gonna lose 'em!" Some of our bands are barren waste-lands that we Amateurs seem to be saving for a "rainy day." Six meters is under utilized except for a few hardy souls in Southern California. The Commission knew the 220 MHz band was not adequately occupied. It won't be adequately occupied even when the FCC allocates the 220-222 MHz portion for land mobile use. We have already lost the 902 MHz band and the fate of our satellite "S" band will be decided next year by the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) in Spain.

The 1296 band is priceless. Do you know of anyone who operates this band? Does your ham store have any 1296 MHz equipment in stock or do they have to order it? Is there a 1296 MHz repeater in your town. I doubt it.

If we maintain our "business as usual" approach, we are going to lose more frequencies. A lot more!

73, Don, W6TNS

—Submitted by AI, N8ARO

1999 ARRL Field Day

RESULTS:

Call	Points	Class
W3AO	26,224	7A
N1FD	24,358	28A
W4IY	22,780	13A
KK8M	20,920	20A
W2GD	20,520	5A

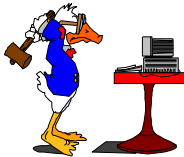
Field Day 2000 will be held June 24-25. Start planning now for the last Field Day of the 20th century. New for FD2000 will be a new 100-bonus point category for setting up a demonstration of APRS, ATV or SSTV. To help get the Field Day spirit flowing, enjoy comments from the Field Day operation of clubs from across the country.

—ARRL

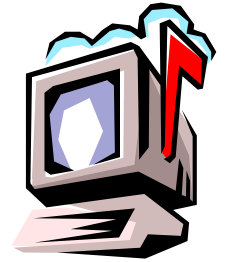
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 KB8YYA, Dreux: kb8yya@arrl.net
 KB8YYB, Debbi: cuer@juno.com
 ★K8ZEC, John: k8zec@tir.com
 ★New/change from previous.



"YOU'VE GOT MAIL!"

If you are a club member and would like your address published (or changed) in the *Express*, send it via e-mail to K8OEF.

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; plaques 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 logs to: 17516 Brill Dr., Clinton Twp., MI 48035 c/o KC8JSH; E-Mail: delwro@att.net.
- ✓5) If *you* notice any errors in the database, wrong or changed call signs, misspelled names, etc., let Delphine know ASAP.

USECA . . . We Are Family!

USECA Board Meeting Minutes—October 28, 1999

In attendance:

- W8DFG, Dennis President
- *KB8QMS, Nancy Vice-President
- KB8YYB, Debbi Recording Secretary
- W8IR, Mark Membership Secretary
- N8OKW, Jim Treasurer
- KC8IAQ, Dave Board Member
- KG8IF, Ann Board Member
- N8TMJ, Marianne Board Member
- W8RO, Floyd Past President
- K8CFY, Jerry Historian
- K8OEF, Joe Express Editor
- W8VB, Dave ARRL Liaison
- N8KLX, Jerry Field Day Chairman
- K8ZEC, John Repeater Technician
- *KC8DIR Net Manager
- N8SA, Bill; N8SIH, Betty
- *Absent



The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:30 P.M.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Membership: We have in excess of 200 members.

Repeater: John, K8ZEC, promulgated that the Detroit site will be in need of some work. The back up repeater will be installed and working at Mt. Clemens General Hospital by New Years Eve.

Express: Due to the meeting date of November 16, 1999, the Express will be one week later this month.

Old Business:

Swap: Debbi, KB8YYB, reported that the 1999 USECA Swap was very successful. Dave, KC8IAQ, was approved as the 2000 Swap Chairman.

Ann, KG8IF, presented information about the 1999 USECA Christmas Party. A motion was made by Jim, N8OKW, seconded by Floyd, W8RO, and passed to approve the purchase of a cake for the party at a cost not to exceed \$50.00.

Discussion began regarding making Chuck, WA8Z, an honorary lifetime member. It was decided that the Board will bring recommendation to the membership for a vote.

New Business:

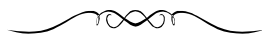
Jim, N8OKW, has once again volunteered to handle the absentee ballots for the election of officers.

Discussion ensued regarding MARC.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Debbi Cokewell, KB8YYB, Recording Secretary



USECA General Meeting Minutes—November 16, 1999

In attendance:

- W8DFG, Dennis President
- KB8QMS, Nancy Vice-President
- KB8YYB, Debbi Recording Secretary
- W8IR, Mark Membership Secretary
- N8OKW, Jim Treasurer
- KC8IAQ, Dave Board Member
- *KG8IF, Ann Board Member

- N8TMJ, Marianne Board Member
- W8RO, Floyd Past President
- K8CFY, Jerry Historian
- K8OEF, Joe Express Editor
- W8VB, Dave ARRL Liaison
- N8KLX, Jerry Field Day Chairman
- K8ZEC, John Repeater Technician
- *Absent

The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:35 P.M.

New upgrades were recognized.

A motion was made by Bill, N8SA, seconded by Steve, KC8KJN, and passed to accept the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Express.

A motion was made by Walt, WB8E, seconded by Jerry, N8KLX, and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

Membership: Current membership exceeds 216.

Express: Articles for the Express are due tonight. Want ads will now be accepted for any merchandise you wish to sell. These ads are for members only.

Repeater: John, K8ZEC, informed the membership that the Detroit is currently undergoing some work.

Hosts: Many thanks to this month's hosts, Richard, K8QLM, and Janice, KC8HMG.

Old Business:

Swap: Debbi, KB8YYB, reported that the 1999 USECA Swap was very successful. Dave, KC8IAQ, will be the 2000 USECA Swap Chairman.

Jim, N8OKW, announced the annual Thumbs Up Road Rally on November 13, 1999, was very successful and thanks to all the volunteers.

Testing: Testing will continue to be the first and third Saturday of each month at the Salvation Army in Mt. Clemens. Also, the ham radio open house will continue every Saturday evening from 7:00-11:00 P.M.

Dennis, W8DFG, announced that applications are available for anyone wishing to join MARC.

Marianne, N8TMJ, announced that the Christmas Party would be held at Gar Wood's on December 11, 1999 at a cost of 16.00 per person. Marianne will be collecting money.

New Business:

Walt, WB8E, has a limited quantity of extra Field Day shirts for sale.

A motion was made by Bill, N8SA, seconded by Jerry, KB8VMF, and passed to make Chuck, WA8Z and honorary lifetime member.

Dennis, W8DFG, announced our new doughnut chairman, Rich, KC8HMJ. We are still looking for someone to take over the duties of transporting and storing the sound equipment for the meetings.

Jerry, K8CFY, gave a report regarding the passing of Fred Hammond.

Nominations for the 1999 election were opened by Floyd, W8RO. Floyd reminded everyone that nominations will remain open until the election at the December, 1999 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Debbi Cokewell, KB8YYB, Recording Secretary

USECA 1999 VHF Net Points as received by November 14, 1999

Call	Name	pts	Call	Name	pts	Call	Name	pts
KIOMN	MIKE	3	KCBIMK	DALE	1	NBPF	LEONARD	1
W1ETE	BRENT	29	W8IMP	JOHN	2	K8PIK	MARILYN	33
W1IK	JIM	109	KC8PFF	DENISE	1	W88PPW	SAM	3
KC2BOJ	MARK	1	W8IR	MARK	22	N8QAE	ERNIE	1
KA2IBE	JOHN	53	WB8ITB	FRED	1	K8QLM	RICHARD	260
W13L	MIKE	3	KC8IWN	MAURICE	1	K8QIMP	BILL	2
VE3LFZ	MARIE	32	KC8IZG	DAVE	17	K8QMS	NANCY	46
VE3TZ	JOHN	4	KC8IZW	DALLAS	2	N8QOQ	TOM	2
KC4ZHC	STEVE	4	KC8JBK	CHARLIE	2	K8QXB	SUE	2
KM5D	ERIC	3	W8JDE	JOHN	2	K8QXD	RANDY	3
KC8ARS	HENRY	7	N8JGU	MIKE	1	N8RAR	WAYNE	4
N8ASD	LARRY	6	WA8JPR	BILL	26	K8BRBV	MANNY	9
KC8BFF	MARK	19	KC8JSF	JEFF	8	K8BRCB	TONY	3
W8BHF	BOB	8	KC8JSH	DELPHINE	19	N8RE	JOE	1
KC8BIU	TED	2	KC8JTK	BILL	1	K8RFF	RON	3
KC8BNU	JERRY	4	N8KC	KEN	23	W8RO	FLOYD	46
K8BBSG	CARL	7	W8KC	PHIL	33	N8RRU	GARY	4
AB8BT	ANDY	85	KC8KIO	CINDY	3	N8RUE	EDDIE	24
KC8BXD	HENRY	13	KC8KJR	MATTHEW	43	N8RUH	TJ	1
KA8CBZ	BILL	2	KC8KJL	BRIAN	4	N8RXZ	LARRY	1
K8CFY	JERRY	26	KC8KJM	BOB	2	N8SA	BILL	10
KC8CPT	DON	47	KC8KJN	STEVE	25	N8SBU	JAMES	3
KC8DBG	BILL	15	N8KXL	JERRY	1	N8SH	BETTY	34
KC8DDL	ANDY	1	KC8KNH	LORA	5	N8SN	CHUCK	12
W8DFG	DENNIS	39	KC8LH	STU	68	W8SNE	BOBO	1
KC8DIR	BRIAN	115	KC8LDH	MICHAEL	5	K8SUL	DAVE	3
K8DZT	FRANK	6	KC8LDN	RAY	9	W8MT	BRETT	10
KC8DZT	TOM	3	KC8LEC	LEE	2	K8BTAS	JERRY	45
NS8E	JOHN	145	W8LEE	LEE	1	KA8TIQ	JEFF	19
WB8E	WALT	73	K8LFE	JIM	5	N8TKH	JOHN	1
KC8FMT	DICK	1	KA8LGI	DARRELL	25	N8TLC	BILL	1
KC8FRW	JOHN	28	KC8LJ	SCOTT	1	N8TJ	MARIANNE	7
K8FT	JIM	2	KC8LIU	CRAIG	11	W8TJF	DENNIS	1
WB8FUJ	PHIL	16	KC8LOB	STEVE	1	N8TUH	STEVE	5
KC8FXF	MIKE	3	KC8LOC	TOM	7	KA8TWO	HANK	6
KC8FYP	GEORGE	3	KC8LOD	MIKE	2	KA8UHG	STEVE	3
KC8FYQ	GERALD	3	KC8LOQ	RICK	1	W8VB	DAVE	147
N8GCD	KEN	3	KC8LUM	MIKE	7	K8BVJD	DAVE	4
K8GEO	GEORGE	12	KC8LVL	KEVIN	6	N8VLY	JOAN	1
K8GER	JERRY	1	KC8LXM	SCOTT	5	K8VWF	JERRY	1
K88GFE	KEN	2	KC8LXN	LORIE	15	N8VOH	KATHY	4
KC8GFN	DAVE	6	K8GM	TOM	8	WN8VOT	DAVE	10
KC8GMS	PHIL	4	WY8M	ARPAD	12	N8VSI	SCOTT	2
KC8GMT	LORA	70	N8MCD	MIKE	14	N8VTF	DON	4
KC8GNH	KEVIN	2	K8MCG	MIKE	4	K8WBV	KEN	1
K88GPO	KEN	4	KC8MCM	ROGER	3	K8WCM	STEVE	2
WA8GQL	DAN	5	KC8MES	FRED	3	K8WH	DAVE	4
KC8GRZ	JERRY	2	KC8MMJ	KIM	6	W8WKG	AL	1
KC8GUC	LENNY	19	KC8MNY	DAN	3	K8WLR	CHUCK	2
KC8GUE	MIKE	2	N8MOU	RICHARD	1	K8WTH	RICHARD	75
KC8HCT	CHRIS	6	KC8MSX	BILL	7	AC8X	MIKE	2
N8HFW	CARSON	1	K8MUJA	ANDY	1	W88X	LENNY	2
K8HJ	LARRY	53	KC8MWV	BRUCE	21	N8XNM	RAY	7
K8HLJ	GEORGE	1	K8NIDY	DAN	5	KF8XO	JEFF	2
KC8HMG	JANICE	189	W8NG	JIM	6	KIBY	LARRY	1
KC8HMK	VICKI	1	N8NMX	BILL	4	N8YBY	LEONARD	71
KC8HMM	SAM	30	N8NQQ	BIFF	4	N8YJ	DINA	27
K8HHR	TIM	6	N8NSV	BOB	2	N8YTV	HARRY	2
K8HW	STEVE	4	W8NZ	BOB	1	K8YYA	DREUX	23
HC8HYS	PAT	1	K8OEF	JOE	5	K8YYB	DEBBIE	11
KC8HYU	JON	145	N8OEF	VAL	55	K8ZAW	RAY	2
N8HZE	KEN	4	N8OEO	JOHN	1	K8ZEC	JOHN	52
KC8IAP	MARY	19	W8OIS	LEN	2	K8ZEH	DICK	2
KC8IAQ	DAVE	144	N8OKW	JIM	3	N8ZR	STEVE	6
K8IF	ANN	37	N8OZ	JOE	59	N8ZZE	JOHN	2
WD8IFL	DAVE	1	N8PC	JERRY	1	N8ZZF	PAT	10
KC8IHO	COLIN	13	N8PDP	MICHAEL	90	KZ8ZZ	LES	6
KE8IJM	MURRAY	1	W8PEG	PEGGY	12	K9GUY	GARY	1

Top 20 VHF Operators

Call	Name	pts
1	KC8LLM	RICHARD 280
2	KC8HMG	JANICE 199
3	WB8B	DAVE 147
4	NS8E	JOHN 145
5	KC8HYU	JON 145
6	KC8IAQ	DAVE 144
7	KC8DIR	BRIAN 115
8	W1IK	JIM 109
9	N8PDP	MICHAEL 85
10	AB8BT	ANDY 80
11	K8BWH	RICHARD 75
12	WB8E	WALT 73
13	N8YBY	LEONARD 71
14	KC8GMT	LORA 70
15	KC8LAH	STU 68
16	N8OZ	JOE 59
17	N8OEF	VAL 55
18	K8HJ	LARRY 53
19	KA2IBE	JOHN 53
20	K8ZEC	JOHN 52

Top HF operators

Call	Name	pts
1	K8QLM	RICHARD 221
2	KC8IAQ	DAVE 106
3	KA2IBE	JOHN 89
4	KC8GMT	LORA 84
5	WA8JPR	BILL 80
6	K8BTAS	JERRY 80
7	AA8DD	BOB 71
8	KC8HMG	JANICE 68
9	N8KC	KEN 66
10	N8MOJ	MARION 48
11	WB8E	WALT 44
12	W8IR	MARK 44
13	AB8BT	ANDY 42
14	W8RO	FLOYD 36
15	WY8M	ARPAD 28
16	K8PIK	MARILYN 28
17	W1ETE	BRENT 24
18	K8WH	DAVE 24
19	KC8HMM	SAM 24
20	W1IK	JIM 20

Database c/o KC8JSH (Delphine)
Software written by WU8C (Tom)

See USECA's "Net Point System Explanation" for info on how net points & awards are earned.

See or call Brian KC8DIR
USECA's Net Manager,
for more information on
running a net and earning
extra points.

ALL 1999
NET LOGS
DUE BY
JANUARY 7, 2000

La Grand Wazoo—Continued from Page 1

The next three officers were on for the three-year ride. Debbi, KB8YYB Secretary; Jim, N8OKW Treasurer and Mark, W8IR Membership Secretary. The Board saw Ann, KG8IF, Marianne, N8TMJ also for three years, with Nancy, KB8QMS (97) and Dave, KC8IAQ (98 &99) filled the third seat of the board.

Scott, KG8IE and Linda, N8VVH took on Field Day and the Kitchen, respectively, for 97 & 98. Walt, WB8E took Field Day, along with Delphine, KC8JSH and Peg, W8PEG taking the Kitchen this year. All three years we placed in the top five in North America. While the trend is on the downward swing for swaps in general ours flourished and did well under Chris, W8ZNT (97 & 98) and did extremely well this year under swap Czar Debbi, KB8YYB. Our Nets are running well under the scheduling of our Net Managers Dave, KC8IAQ (97 & 98) and Brian, KC8DIR who took over this year. Net Point Managers where Ken, N8KC (97 & 98) and Delphine, KC8JSH. This job is very time consuming.

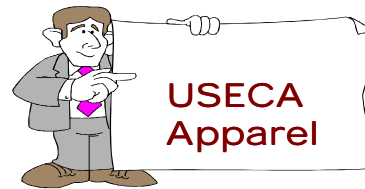
The people that helped out at the meeting supplying us with refreshments Phil, W8IC, Marianne, N8TMJ, and Don, KC8CPT. Thanks to Pete, N8ZFA for hauling around the P.A. system for the past three years. Enough cannot be said about our editor of the award-winning *Express* Joe, K8OEF who always got out the *Express* in a timely matter. To our Tech Committee heads Doug, N8KND (97 & 98) and John, K8ZEC, along the people who served on the committee, they spend many hours keeping the system up an running.

Finally, the members of this club who gave the club their support during the past three years. Hopefully the support will continue. Because this organization has shakers and movers, we already have key positions filled for next year.

Once again, THANKS for the last three years.
73,
Dennis, W8DFG

USECA VE Testing

Examinations for an Amateur License are held the on the first and third Saturday of each month (except July and August). Starting time is 7:15 p.m. — please do not arrive earlier. Walk-ins are welcomed. Pre-registration is preferred. Test site is at the Salvation Army, 55 Church, 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. For more information and directions to the test site, call Bill, N8SA at: (810) 468-8345; (before 9:00 p.m.).



Jackets—\$45.00 • Sweatshirts—\$25.00
Polo Shirts—\$22.00 • Caps—\$6.00
(2X & 3X—Additional Charge)
Contact: Richard, KB8WTH
At Meetings or Phone (810) 791-4669

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 Donald Bemis Junior High School, 12500 Nineteen Mile Road (between Schoenherr and Clinton River Road), Sterling Heights, 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. To get a message to the Board or the Membership Secretary, please call our answering machine at: (810) 268-6730. The awards for "Excellent" (1994) and three times "Superior" (1995, 1996 and 1997) were received from ARNS (Amateur Radio News Service).

ARNS Report

The annual Amateur Radio Newsletter Service (ARNS) contest has yet to judge/award our newsletter submission—December, 1998. So until that time, we'll have to wait and see if we deserve our FIFTH award.

—Joe, K8OEF

USECA Cork Board

▶ Radio "Stuff" ◀

ALINCO DJ-C4T UHF H.T. with manual and battery charger. Mint condition. \$65.00. Richard, K8QLM, (810) 731-4475.

★CLEGG 22'er FM transceiver 2 meter, receiver tunes 146-148 MHz, transmitter crystal controlled by 10 position switch. Many crystals included, manual, microphones, power cords, dc and ac. Tube transmitter and solid state receiver. New in box Amperex final tube included. Like new condition. \$50.00 OBO. Dan, WA8GQL.

★MALDOL mobile 144/430 Dual Band antenna with power tilt over. New in package, not used. Cost over \$230.00 Sell for \$100.00—144 MHz, 5.0 DB gain—430 MHz, 7.7 db gain—150 watt F3. Dan, WA8GQL.

★MOTOROLA HT1000 UHF "NEW" Portable, 16 freq. scan, battery, antenna, 403-470 MHz, \$425. K8OEF (810) 781-0050.

★SALE. 2-Meter Stick antenna w/approx. 12' co-ax. \$20. (810)-786-5442 KC8BIU, Ted.

TEN-TEC; complete station. Omni-C transceiver; model 255 power supply/speaker; model 229 antenna tuner (re-strung by T.T. Spring '99); model 243 remove VFO; model 444 linear amplifier. All units are mint condition, with manuals. Package deal only. \$1,600. OBO. Richard, K8QLM, (810) 731-4475.

TRIPP LITE PR-10b power supply for sale 13.8vdc. 10A surge, 7.5A continuous. Almost identical to Astron RS-10A. \$50. Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 391-6660 or hires@rust.net

WANTED: Hallicrafters SR34. K8OEF (810) 781-0050.

★WANTED: Looking for a code oscillator with 1/4" key jack. Sam, KC8HMM.

WILSON. T-1405; 2-meter H.T. with leather case, manual and charger. \$35.00 Richard, K8QLM, (810) 731-4475.

★YAESU FT 530 Dual Band HT with display speaker mic, desktop rapid charger, cigarette Lighter adaptor, wall charger and a VOX headset. Excellent condition, all for only \$375. Contact Nancy/KB8QMS, (810) 749-3383, e-mail: KB8QMS@hotmail.com

★New this month.

Notify the editor to have items added and/or removed.

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

▶ Miscellaneous Items ◀

★ATARI LYNX hand held video game with 6 cartridges and carrying case. Like new condition. \$20.00. Dan, WA8GQL

★COLEMAN 1993 Seneca Camping Trailer. Queen and double bed provide comfortable sleeping for four adults or 2 adults and 3 kids. Dual dinettes provides sleeping for 3 more kids. Three burner stove and sink inside. Separate high output 2 burner stove for outside. Lots of storage, including a place for the porta potti (saves the late night trips to the facility). Canopy for shade on those sunny or rainy days. Tows great. Dry weight approx. 1400#, so can be towed by about any vehicle. We towed it thru the mountains of California, as much as 18% grades, with a Saab 900, 2.3L in 1998. Excellent condition. \$3800. Those of you who have been at the USECA campouts the last two years have seen it. Contact Jim Mickle, N8OKW, (810) 677-1667, Jim Mickle@juno.com.

EPSON Apex Action Printer L1000, 24 pin dot matrix printer. Excellent condition and works beautifully. Comes with tractor feed, as well as plain paper feed; owners manual and software. First \$20 takes it. Call Floyd at (248) 391-6660 or e-mail: hires@rust.net.

★FISHER studio standard bookshelf stereo system. Like new condition, plastic cover. PLL digital fm/am stereo tuner, Two deck cassette tape player/copier, record changer on top, graphic equalizer, CD player. Very little to no use. Model MC-750. \$85.00. Dan, WA8GQL.

★GMC '92 Typhoon. Turbocharged, intercooled V6 w/AWD, ABS, CD and alarm. Very fast, looks great, runs great and always garaged. 92K miles. \$16K obo. Floyd, W8RO; (248) 391-6660 or floyd@hi-rescom.com.

MONITOR 15" NEC Multi-Sync XV15+. Like new. \$95 firm. K8OEF (810) 781-0050.

★OLDSMOBILE '97 Aurora, silver, 42K miles, loaded, excellent condx. Contact Floyd, W8RO, at (248) 391-6660 or floyd@hi-rescom.com.

SATURN 1995. SL2. Blue/black; 67k miles; auto starter. Dina, N8YJI, (810) 777-4207.

★SWAROVSKI Silver Crystal "Dragon" with display stand, 1997 annual piece. (Year 2000 is the year of the dragon). New in box, never displayed, all certificates. ERV \$600; your price \$450. You can see it at: www.tir.com/~k8oef/dragon — also, Swarovski Silver Crystal "Pegasus" with display stand, 1998 annual piece. New in box, never displayed, all certificates. ERV \$550; your price \$375. Check it out at: www.tir.com/~k8oef/pegasus. K8OEF (810) 781-0050.

What's My Line?

This area will (hopefully) be used to allow all members to list "their line." Send in your call, name and what you do (or did). Help others know "where to shop." This is on a volunteer basis—the information must come from you! Send your information to the editor.

OK—Since no one volunteered, I'll start it off with mine.

K8OEF, Joe. ComSource, Inc., Motorola 2-way radio systems and Nextel phones.

There, wasn't that easy? Anyone else?



Amateurs—Continued from Page 1

In the final analysis, listen to what you say and how you say it. Ask yourself if there really is any good reason to say all that other "stuff". If not, don't do it! Practice good, efficient communications all the time. It is no less fun to communicate efficiently and effectively than it is to imitate the CBers! Then, when we all WANT to act a little crazy, we still can! We may have to "think" about acting crazy, but that's OK! Food for thought.

73, W8RO.



The Ultimate Y2K Fix

Memo from a Y2K engineer:

I hope I haven't misunderstood your instructions. Because to be honest, none of this Y to K problem makes any sense to me.

At any rate, I have finished converting all the months on all the company calendars so that the year 2000 is ready to go with the following new months:

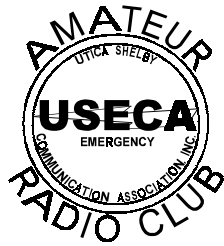
- Januark
- Februark
- Mak
- Julk

—Internet

Unnecessary Words:

"In The Mobile"

USECA APPLICATION



DATE _____ NEW RENEWAL
 CALL _____ CLASS _____ AUTO-PATCH _____
 NAME _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 TELEPHONE # _____ PRINT IN ROSTER YES NO
 BIRTHDATE _____ Copy of Current License for USECA File
 MEMBER: ARRL YES NO RACES YES NO

Rev. 12/98

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 1222, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-1222**
 (Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.)

2-Meter LANs

Local Area Nets

DAY	TIME	CLUB	FREQ.
SUN	1:00 pm	USECA/Information	147.180
SUN	8:00 pm	SPIRIT of '76/Traders	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	8:00 pm	MECA	147.200
MON	9:00 pm	USECA/Slow Code	147.180
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	EDISON/Information	145.330
THU	9:00 pm	SATERN	147.180
THU	9:00 pm	ECHO	147.080
FRI	Midnite	USECA/Hoot Owl	147.180

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

WWW.USECA.ORG

Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM	MON. 9 PM**	TUES. 8 PM	FRI. MIDNIGHT
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
1	KG8IF	N8OEF	K8QLM	KC8IAQ
2	W8IR	W1IK	-Meeting-	W8PEG
3	K8QLM	N8OEF	KC8IAP	KC8DIR
4	AB8BT	W1IK	W8IR	KC8HYU
5*	WB8E	N8OEF	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

**Slow Code

HF NETS

	THURS. 9 PM	FRI. 10 PM	FRI. 11 PM
WEEK	21.140 MHz/CW	21.140 MHz/CW	28.425 MHz/USB
1	K8QLM	KC8IAQ	KC8IAP
2	N8MOJ	W8RO	KA2IBE
3	W8RO	W8IC	K8QLM
4	AA8DD	WB8E	KC8IAQ
5*	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

*If applicable

NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement
 or contact Brian, KC8DIR (810) 749-4561—Don't wait!

USECA Hot Line: (810) 268-6730