



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC. Volume 19, Number 10, December 2003

Election:

Nominees

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

President

Jim, W1IK (I)

Vice President

John, N8HTV
Dave, KC8IAQ

Recording Secretary

Ann, KT8F (I)

Treasurer

Delphine, KC8JSH (I)

Membership Secretary

Mary, KC8IAP (I)

Board Member (3 Elected)

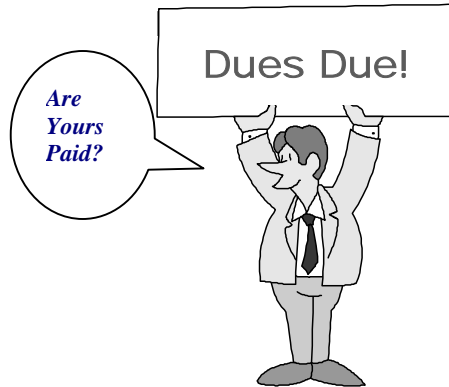
Jerry, N8KLX (I)
Scott, WN1B
Dennis, W8DFG
Walt, WB8E
Arpad, WY8M

(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 Mary, KC8IAP at (586) 791-2720 or email: kc8iap@k8uo.com. The ballots are to be returned by mail to USECA BALLOT, P.O. Box 1222, Sterling Heights MI 48311. Ballots must arrive prior to the December 9th meeting. If you do not receive your ballot please contact me to ensure that your vote is counted.

Thanks,
Mary Cunningham, KC8IAP
Membership Secretary



USECA Swap 2003— A HUGE Success!

Delphine, KC8JSH

I am happy to report that while the consensus is that Amateur Radio Swaps are down, we just completed the most profitable one in five years.

This does not just happen—it is the hard work of many members. If you are not recognized here by name and call, it is because you were leery of our many requests to “sign in.”

First of all, I want to thank my co-chair Scott Madison and his lovely wife, Laurie and son, Benjamin. Scott took hours on nets advertising the upcoming swap plus doing the seminars.

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2003 Christmas Party

Ann, KT8F

This year's Christmas party will once again be held at the beautiful Carpathia Club in Sterling Hts. at Plumbrook and Utica Rd. Date: Friday night, December 5. Cocktails will be served at 6:30 PM, and a great buffet dinner at 7:30 PM. The menu has been expanded this year, but the price still re-



mains: \$20.00 per person, pop/coffee/dessert/taxes and tips included. The menu consists of: roast chicken, beef roulades, pasta Alfredo, salad, green beans almondine, winter mix (broccoli/cauliflower), rolls, dessert. Cash bar. There will be a voluntary anonymous gift exchange, up to \$15.00 value suggested. No junk, please. If you bring a gift, you get a gift. You may mail your reservations to: Ann Manor, 4865 Bates Dr., Warren, MI 48092. Make checks payable to USECA. Cut-off date is Monday, December 1.



Next Meeting — December 9

—Elections—

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Jim Wickstrom/W11K (586) 771-4135
 Vice President Mark Milby/W8IR (586) 295-9430
 Recording Secretary Ann Manor/KT8F, (586) 751-3893
 Treasurer Delphine Wrona/KC8JSH, (586) 791-4669
 Membership Secretary Mary Cunningham/KC8IAP, (586) 791-2720
 Past President Nancy Carr/KB8QMS, (586) 749-3383

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Cunningham/KC8IAQ, (586) 791-2720
 Jerry Radcliffe/N8KLX (586) 731-9041
 Dave Edenfield/KC8RVF (586) 445-1576



COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison Phil/W8IC
 Awards Manager Tom/KC8LOC
 Door Prizes Dina/N8YJI
 Editor Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
 Field Day Chair Mark/W8IR (586) 295-9430
 Health & Welfare Charlene Gracey (586) 777-2954
 Historian Jerry/K8CFY
 Mailers/Sorters Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
 Net Manager Brian/KC8DIR (586) 749-4561
 Photographer Richard/K8QLM
 Program Director Mark/W8IR (586) 295-9430
 Public Relations Officer Ken/N8KC
 Refreshments Don/KC8CPT & Richard/KC8HMJ
 Repeater Trustee Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
 Swap & Shop Scott/WN1B (248) 628-4756
 Technical Director Floyd/W8RO (248) 391-6660
 Technicians WN1B; K8FT; WA8GQL; KC8IAQ; W11K; N8KLX; AD8S; N8SA
 VE Testing Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

Dennis/W8DFG*	Jim/W11K*	Floyd/W8RO
John/NS8E	Mark/W8IR*	Dave/AD8S
Dave/KC8IAQ*	Joe/K8OEF*	Bill/N8SA
Phil/W8IC	Nancy/KB8QMS*	

PROGRAMMERS

Dennis/W8DFG	Dave/KC8IAQ	Mark/W8IR
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SILENT KEYS

Len Czapiewski/K8DHH	Rick Parady/KB8KLW	Dave Martin/W8VB
Art Sheff/WD8EGV	John Moore/KA8KTV	Harry Young/W8VRW
Joe Lucido/NU8F	John Palmer/WD8LBH	Velma Ragon/N8YVC
Charles Smith/N8FWF	Joe Palson/WD8MFM	John Tomlins/KG8YX
Clarence Ringo/W8HQO	John Pizzuti/WB8NHT	
Joe Steel/KA8IZM	Vance Dupuis/WB8QNI	

f=Founder c=Charter h=Hon. Charter

N8AWV h	N8HCT f c	WB8OSF h
KA8BDG c	KA8IZM f c SK	K8QLM f c
N8BK h	KA8KTV f c SK	WB8QNI c SK
N8FDN c	G. Manquardt h	KA8VYV h
N8FNO f c	WD8MFM f c	WA8VZZ c SK
J. Haubner c	WB8NHT f c	

We Are Family!

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

Congrats to Delphine, KC8JSH, and co-chair Scott, WN1B (and everyone who contributed) for a very successful 2003 swap. Del even received a “standing-o” at the November meeting—a *very* rare occurrence.

It's time to “step up.” Help is needed for both the Pre-Field Day and our annual picnic. Ann, KT8F will not be our coordinator for our next Pre-Field Day. No one is assigned to the picnic. You want good food and a good time at these events—but if there's no one to manage them, the events will not take place. The club needs your TNT (time and talent).

Joe, N8OZ (our VE guru) has determined that it is not viable to list every USECA VE Examiner. Therefore, it has been eliminated.

In case you missed it (on the front page), dues are due. Our club callsign is K8UO. The “UO” could mean “your owe.”

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From the Desk of El Presidente

Jim Wickstrom, W1IK

Greetings, Fellow USECAns!

Just a short note, this time, to bring a couple of things to your attention.

First of all, I would like to extend hearty congratulations to all of you for helping our 2003 USECA Swap show an even greater profit than last year! With all of the talk we've been hearing on repeaters and across lunch counters about how "swaps are down all over," you, the membership of USECA, stubbornly refused to participate in the decline!

From those of you who tirelessly worked to get the tables set up, get the vendors checked in, served food in the kitchen or stood security duty, as well as to those of you who simply purchased a table or a ticket to get in, all of you deserve our sincere thanks! Of course, it was the direction and organization from our Swap Chairperson, Delphine Wrona, KC8JSH, that provided the driving force and kept us all on task. Thank you, Delphine, for all of your exhaustive work throughout the year! While Delphine has decided to take a

well-deserved retirement as Swap Chair, she has indicated that she will stay on in an advisory capacity to help with future swaps.

Congratulations (or perhaps, condolences!) to Scott Madison, WN1B, who has accepted appointment as USECA Swap Chairperson for 2004! Scott worked as assistant to Delphine this year, and is ready to take the reins from Delphine's experienced hands. I'm sure that we'll all be ready and excited to pitch in and support Scott the way we did for previous swaps!

For those of you who were unable to attend the November General meeting, nominations for all club offices took place as scheduled, and the list of candidates is listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Please review it carefully, and if you would like to throw your hat into the ring for any office, please contact the Nominations Committee: Walt, WB8E; Dennis, W8DFG; or Floyd, W8RO. You can also nominate another member in good standing for any office (they will need to accept the

nomination). Nominations remain open right up until the elections begin at the December General meeting, and nominations will be accepted from the floor. Above all, please consider all of the candidates carefully, and **VOTE!** Absentee ballots are available if you cannot attend the December meeting. This is your opportunity to affect the direction your club will take in the future.

Don't forget the annual USECA Christmas Party at the Carpathia Club is coming up. Contact Ann Manor, KT8F for details.

Finally on a somber note, our heartfelt condolences go out to Ken. N8KC and Denise. KC8IPF Coughlin on the recent loss of Ken's father, Jim Coughlin. Jim lost his long battle with cancer and is now at peace. Ken and Denise, you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

That's enough for now. I hope to see you all at the December meeting, and remember: **It's YOUR Club!**

73, W1IK

Write An Article

Dick, AF8X

AS YOU HAVE witnessed, I have written several articles published in the **Express**. I have been writing for several publications including *QST*, *QRP Quarterly*, and a few club newsletters as well as an occasional piece in the local newspaper. I write because I enjoy it and with the use of the computer it is quite easy. The **USECA** club, and as is with most clubs, has a number of members who could tell some mighty interesting stories, how-

ever we never seem to hear from them.

When I was the newsletter editor of my flying club, I begged for articles to be submitted by the members. The result, **ZERO**, so I had to fill the pages with information down-loaded off of the Internet or articles written by myself.

Some of you have had some interesting experiences you could share with others via the **Express**; others with technical

knowledge could submit "how-to" articles.

If you are shy about your writing skills, just send Joe [K8OEF] your ideas and he can put them into a readable piece for the **Express**. I believe these types of articles would have much more meaning if written by the people you know.

The **Express** is a great publication, but it's only as good as the content. Being the editor is a tough job; you could make it easier.

ARRL Straight Key Night For 2004

Richard, K8QLM

0000 To 2400 UTC January 1, 2004

ONCE AGAIN THE MONTH of December is upon and the annual ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN) is just around the corner.

Straight Key Night had its beginning many years ago and it was created by the ARRL.

During these days of digital communication, electronic keyers, FM and keyboarding, at years end, hundreds of very good operators bring days of yore to the present by participating in the annual ARRL Straight Key Night. The purpose of this pleasant event is to enjoy some good old-fashioned CW fun using straight keys. Friendly, sometimes lengthy, rag chews are suggested rather than rapid contest type exchanges. SKN 2004 begins at 7 p.m. EST December 31 and lasts for 24 hours through 7 p.m. EST January 1, 2004. (0000 - 2400 UTC January 1, 2004).

Instead of sending RST before giving a signal report, operators send the letters SKN to indicate their participation and alert any listeners that SKN is going strong. After SKN is over, send the Contest Branch the list of



stations you worked and your vote for the best fist heard (it need not be any of those you worked). Too, include your vote for the QSO you thought to be most interesting that you worked or monitored. Send your

comments and information from your SKN activity to the ARRL Contest Online Soapbox at www.arrl.org/contest/soapbox. You can also send in items for the

Feedback Section of the SKN 2004 write-up. Entries must be e-mailed to the Contest Branch at: straightkey@arrl.org or can be sent by regular mail to: SKN, ARRL, 225 Main St. Newington, CT 06111.

Entries for SKN 2004 must be received by January 31, 2004. All votes for the "Best Fist" heard and "Most Interesting QSO" will be tabulated and published in the April 2004 issue of QST.

Please dust off your old J-38 Key, or any straight key, and see if you can make it talk once again.

How's Your Code Speed?

Dick, AF8X

YOU'VE BEEN A HAM for ten years and still can't copy CW faster than 15 WPM. If this sounds familiar, cheer up—anyone who has mastered the basics of CW can copy up to 35 WPM without years of practice.

I recently hired a temporary stenographer to finish up some work left to me by my partner. I was amazed at the skills this young lady possessed. She could take dictation at well over 200 WPM and type at the rate of 120 WPM! When I commented on her unusual proficiency, she told me she was trained at Professor

Schmidt's School of Stenography in Berlin, Germany. A part of her training, she added, included a strict diet rich in carbohydrates and an aggressive exercise regimen, both of which she still maintained. This got me to thinking and I decided to do a study to see if a program like this would have an effect on radio operation, namely CW.

I assembled a study group of 30 hams from local clubs—15 high-speed CW operators and 15 not so fast operators.

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Hams Are The Best Drivers In The World

Dick, AF8X

I KNOW THIS IS true because every morning I hear reports on 2 meters from hams driving to work and talking about the other %&#*@ drivers on the road. A lot of the complaints are about the idiots who insist on driving within the speed limit. These people should take a page from the ham drivers who are able to juggle steering and shifting gears while holding the mic and

drinking coffee at the same time. This takes some practice and what better place to practice than on the way to a dull job which is number 2 on the complaint list.

I remember way back when, when hams used to talk about radios and antennas and neat stuff like that. Where are they?

The Best Of The Holiday Season To All!

USECA Board Meeting Minutes—November 4, 2003

In attendance:

- W1IK, Jim President
- W8IR, Mark Vice-President
- KT8F, Ann Recording Secretary
- KC8IAP, Mary Membership Secretary
- KC8JSH, Delphine Treasurer
- KC8IAQ, Dave Board Member
- N8KLX, Jerry Board Member
- KC8RVF, Dave Board Member
- KB8QMS, Nancy Past President



*Absent

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

Motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Nancy, KB8QMS and 2nd by Jerry, N8KLX, motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Delphine, KC8JSH. Dave, KC8RVF motioned to accept the report, Mary, KC8IAP 2nd, motion carried.

Membership: Mary, KC8IAP: 234 members currently.

WebMaster: Dave, KC8IAQ updated the web page – the revised bylaws on the web. Has added some files. Community is working great. Discussion re: EchoLink. Teamspeak is up and working.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – no report.

Technical report: Scott, WN1B – north site is up and running well. No funds needed to accomplish the job. The new repeater is coming along well. Working on the PL application at this time.

If you have an announcement to put on the DVR, notify a control op.

ARRL: Phil, W8IC – advised sending e-mail in to your US Congressman to support the Spectrum Protection Act. Links can be found on our web site at the ARRL area.

Trustee: Dennis, W8DFG - no current problems.

Health & Welfare: Charlene was thanked for taking on the job.

Swap: Delphine, KC8JSH provided a report. The swap did very well this year, improved over last year. A HUGE thank you to Delphine—and, Walt and the kitchen crew and so many others who helped out.

Motion to appoint Scott, WN1B as next year's Swap Chairman made by Mark, W8IR, 2nd by Dave, KC8RVF. Motion carried.

Field Day standings reported by Nancy, KC8QMS. 162 overall.

Discussion re: the ARRL convention in Zeeland last month.

Chuck, N8ZA provided a report on the swap.

Motion made by Mary, KC8IAP to subsidize the Christmas party, if need be, in an amount not to exceed \$100.00. Seconded by Nancy, KB8QMS, motion carried.

Ann, KT8F announced that she would not be Pre-Field Day Chairperson in 2004.

Jim W1IK submitted his proposal that an election committee be formed. He appointed Dennis, W8DFG, Floyd, W8RO, and Walt, WB8E to be on the committee.

New Business: Ann, KT8F made a motion proposing that any USECA member with a current Amateur Radio Operator's license should have their membership sponsored by the club while on active military duty. 2nd by Dave, KC8RVF, discussion. Motion carried.

Discussion re: a USECA flyer advertising our VE testing and/or other club info. Requested ideas from the membership.

Dave, WD8IFL approached the board with an appeal to be considered for membership renewal.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary



USECA General Meeting Minutes—November 11, 2003

In attendance:

- W1IK, Jim President
- W8IR, Mark Vice-President
- KT8F, Ann Recording Secretary
- KC8IAP, Mary Membership Secretary
- KC8JSH, Delphine Treasurer
- KC8IAQ, Dave Board Member
- N8KLX, Jerry Board Member
- *KC8RVF, Dave Board Member
- *KB8QMS, Nancy Past President

*Absent

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

Ann, KT8F: correspondence received – flyers from the 2 day Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo and ARRL convention, to be held November 15 and 16, as well as a pair of tickets, to be drawn at the break.

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Fred, W1SKU and 2nd by George, K8GEO; motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Delphine, KC8JSH. Motion to accept the report made by Peggy, W8PEG, 2nd by Richard, K8QLM; motion carried.

Membership: Mary, KC8IAP: 235 members

Express: Joe, K8OEF – articles due tonight.

Website: Dave, KC8IAQ gave report. Bylaws were updated on the website. Please check the community board – lots of fun stuff there.

ARRL: Phil, W8IC: reviewed a thank you letter from the ARRL for our donation of \$400.00 to fight the BPL. Legislation in Congress regarding the Spectrum Protection Bill – Senator Levin is on the list, we need Debbie Stabenow. Also contact your local Congressperson.

Technical report: Floyd, W8RO discussed the North Site. It is now functioning – the antenna as been properly connected. Antenna is now at the top. Michigan Proving Ground, in Romeo. Still working on lining up a downtown site.

Health & Welfare: Our condolences to Ken, N8KC and Denise, KC8IPF, on the loss of Ken's father, Jim Coughlin.

Swap: Delphine gave report on our successful. It was the most profitable swap in the last 5 years. A very big thank you to Delphine and Mark, W8IR, as well as all the many others that helped out. Delphine received a standing ovation.

Jim announced the Scott, WN1B was appointed to be next year's swap chairman.

Jeff, N8WR and Harry, KC8TEV – informed us about Murray, KE8VM efforts to put up a tower in Troy. Also invited us to the Hazel Park swap, January 18.

Scott, KC8RRN announced that GM does have 2 meter repeater at 145.21, PL 123.

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FOR THE NEW HAM:

BASE ANTENNA INSTALLATION

de WY8M

Article - I

House/Condo – Chimney Mount

SO YOU JUST GOT your license or it's on the way, but you have no good way to get on the air at home. You're itching to get a start on your "antenna farm", but don't really know where to start, and so maybe have a bit of "ignorance anxiety"? No problem! I've helped install dozens of antenna systems, including antennas on skyscrapers and 200' towers. I'll share some of what I've learned. You'll be surprised how easy and straight forward a good basic system can be to install at home.

I think this article will be part of a series, so in this month's issue we'll assume you have a house on an average residential lot with a chimney on the back or side of your house. Fortunately for you, this will make the antenna mounting pretty easy and very stable during ice storms and high winds. Some non-chimney choices are towers (expensive!), roof mounted tripods, or free-standing guyed masts. These will be covered in future articles.

Mast

You need some sort of support structure for your antenna(s), especially for the 2M one. You want to get that puppy up high so you can easily chat with all the new local hams and maybe some not so local folks you recently met. The 2M antenna needs some altitude to work well, especially on simplex. If you can get the base of the antenna above the peak of your roof, and above some/most of the local "stuff", it'll do pretty good.

Several choices here.... Radidio Snack (or equivalent store) makes 10' lengths of interconnectable "TV" mast pipe. It's basically 1-1/4" steel thin wall tube swaged at

one end to allow sticking several of them together. New price is around \$15 each, a bit overpriced in my opinion. You'll probably want 30' worth. Any more than that and it gets too hard to erect. The stuff is kinda flimsy, and definitely wobbly at 40' or more. Ask anyone who's been to a few Field Days.

Sometimes you can find friendly local hams with leftover TV masting in their garage they're willing to part with for a low price. Or maybe walk the neighborhood in search of those who no longer use their TV antenna, so you can swipe...err, offer to remove their pipe for free. A few people have used steel fence pipe or steel water pipe. While thick-walled and beefy, the big problem here is overall mass. That shstuff is heavy! Not a good choice for taller supports without lots of guys and lots of help. Keep it simple for now. Larger diameter aluminum tube is great if you can find it cheap or free, otherwise it's horribly expensive.

I got lucky ten years ago and had a source for 1.5" thick-walled tube 12' long, which I pieced together making a mast 48' high. My 16' long Diamond X500 perches atop that for a total height of 64'. There's a pulley at 45' for my Window. Yes, I do use guy ropes! Enough abt my big erection.... Per possible local ordinances and potential height restrictions, my personal credo there is: "It is far far easier to ask for forgiveness than to obtain permission!". Nuff sed...

Guy Rope

Depending on what-all U erect, you may end up needing some guy rope to keep the mast from swaying around too much, and to keep from side-loading ur chimney. I use

3/32" black Dacron rope, which has almost 300# tensile strength(!!!). Pretty amazing for being so thin. And, it's UV/-stretch/weather/abrasion resistant. Being thin and a dull black, it's almost invisible once erected.

Chimney Straps

The mast needs to be fastened to the chimney. Duh! But with what? Fortunately, someone else figured that out for you decades ago. "Chimney straps" are commonly available, again at RS or K40 or Abell or where ever. I recommend the slightly more expensive stainless steel chimney strap hardware. That way, rust won't stain your chimney brick and/or trim next year, and you'll be assured it won't fall apart. Again, depending on what is going up, more is usually better. Say you're putting up a Ringer/Diamond-50/ARX270/etc. on a 30' mast; then one pair of good quality straps otta do it. Any more than that, say a taller vert plus a dipole, and shoot for four (since they come in pairs). I run four due to my 64' over-all antenna system height. This distributes the side loading over more of the brickwork.

Pulley

A great way to hoist up your HF wire antenna after installing the mast is a simple pulley. You don't need some massive 50# anchor pulley. A small pulley is just dandy, say with a 1" or so wheel diameter. If you happen to be able to get a marine-grade stainless steel one, all the better.

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DX?

Dick, AF8X

DX TO MOST HAMS means, foreign countries, so when you hear someone calling CQ DX with a stateside call sign, it would be considered rude to answer unless you're out of the country yourself. Hams who collect DX contacts are a group that has their own operating rules, calling frequencies, and awards. I have never been interested in chasing DX because I enjoy "rag chewing" especially with the senior citizen CW operators. One thing that puts me off about DX is, having to "pay" for QSLs from some of the so-called rare countries. My idea of QSLing is a courtesy confirming a pleasurable QSO.

Some hams love breaking a DX pileup; to get through the sometime hundreds of calling stations, takes technique, persistence, luck and sometimes a lot of power. It's sort of like trying to talk to someone across a room filled with people who are all talking at the same time. Conversely, even a whisper can be heard in a quiet library.

Being more interested in rag chewing rather than DX or awards, I enjoy talking to a ham across town just as much as one in a distant state. The one exception is maritime mobiles, I really like to talk to operators at sea; I have a small collection of /mm QSL cards which I treasure, my favorite being from WB1AEI, Ralph Hollis, the pilot of the research submarine *Alvin*. (see picture) The *Alvin* participated in the underwater filming of the Titanic, which you've probably seen on TV.

Fortunately amateur radio has something for everyone, DX, Nets, Digital modes, CW, SSB, VHF, EME, and the list goes on. My own operating preference is QRP. With our modern equipment, which would impress you more, working North Korea with a kilowatt (about 6.6 miles-per-watt), or working Seattle



with 5 watts (about 387 miles-per-watt)? There are those who consistently work distant stations, yes, even DX, using QRP power.

According to Rich Arland, K7SZ, the long-distance low power record is held by KL7YU and W713VV using one Microwatt over a 1,650 mile Ten Meter path between Alaska and Oregon in 1970. This is the equivalent of 1.6 BILLION Miles-per-Watt!

It's interesting to note that NASA's deep space missions typically achieve miles-per-watt ratings of over 500 million miles. One example was the 8-watt signal from Pioneer 10. At a power level equal to that of a night-light, the craft's signal traveled 6.8 billion miles to Earth for a rating of 850 million miles per watt, or about half the KL7YU/W7BVV record!

My philosophy is, put the money you would spend on an amplifier into a good antenna system. Once again, I am dumbfounded by the fact that everyone doesn't think the same way as I do.

Solar Activity—What Do All Those Numbers Mean?

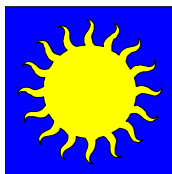
Dick, AF8X

MANY HAMS CHECK the solar activity reports for propagation conditions, but I suspect there are a lot of hams like me who have never taken the time to learn how to read those reports.

For years I have been checking propagation by turning on the radio and surfing through the bands. If I didn't hear any activity, propagation was bad, if I heard lots of stations, it was good.

Recently I decided to find out what propagation reports were all about. I still don't understand all the technical stuff, but I know, solar flares are bad—sunspots are good.

Solar flux: (50 to 300) is the measure of radiation from the sun that ionizes the atmosphere in the F2 region and controls the MUF (minimum usable frequency).



K and A Index: These two indices are used in measuring the level of geomagnetic activity. They give indications of the severity of the magnetic fluctuations and disturbance to the ionosphere.

Now the numbers: In order make sense of them, I had to reduce them to terms that I could remember.

- Solar Flux: >180 (ideal)

- K index: >5 (bad)
- A index: >20 (bad)

So from this we see that high solar flux numbers are good, and high K (more than 5) & A index numbers (more than 20) are bad.

The A and K indices broadcast by WWV are the "mid-latitude" values for Boulder, Colorado, and don't represent conditions for the rest of the world.

What to look for: If the solar flux remains above about 150 for a few days with the K index below 2, get on the air and make some contacts!

The Small Wonder Lab's

Rock-Mite Transceiver Kit

Dick, AF8X

I HAVE BEEN a big fan of QRP operation for years and even got into QRPP (less than 1 watt output). I have built several QRPP kits and have had QSOs on as little power as 80mw! (Clinton Twp. to New York). Most of these kits are truly minimalist rigs with little or none of the conveniences that make operating a bit easier. Then came the Rock-Mite!

I first saw the glowing reports of the Rock-Mite transceiver in QST and on the Internet. I was impressed by the praise given by everyone who had built one. After a few months of hearing about how popular this kit had become with the experienced QRPP community, I could no longer resist and called in an order to Small Wonders Labs for the 20-meter version.

I chose 20 meters because operating out in the field using a comparatively small 20 meter antenna was much more convenient than the twice as large 40 meter antennas.

I was put on the waiting list; it seems there was quite a backlog of orders and some people were ordering several kits on both the 20 and 40-meter frequency. I checked the status of my order everyday on their web page until it was finally listed as SHIPPED!

When the kit arrived I noticed the fine quality of the circuit board, through plated and measuring about 2 x 2.5 inches. The small size gives you a lot of options for an enclosure. After reading all the specs

on this minute rig, I began to appreciate how much was contained in such a small package.

The Rock-Mite has a sensitive receiver and a fine transmitter controlled by a built-in electronic keyer with speed and mode controlled by the microprocessor. A jab on the control button toggles back and forth between the two transmit frequencies. Hold the button down to enter the keyer speed control mode.

After an evening of soldering, actually it should only take about two hours to complete, but I double check each component and placement before soldering, I was ready to put the board into an enclosure.

Many hundreds of Rock-Mites live in the popular Altoids tins, but I wanted an enclosure that would contain both a battery pack and my Palm Mini Paddle. Fortunately I discovered just what I was looking for at a neighborhood garage sale. The 4.25" x 8" Hershey tin was ideal for my purpose.

I used a piece of aluminum sheet cut to the shape of the enclosure and sized to leave half of the container to store the battery and paddle. I laid out the location of the various connectors, drilled the proper size holes and installed them.

I wired short leads from the connectors to the board terminals, and then mounted the circuit board on standoffs to the underside of the faceplate.

I cut some small pieces of aluminum angle stock and screwed them to the sides of the container to support the aluminum faceplate. After drilling screw holes through the faceplate and supporting angle stock, I secured the assembly using short sheet metal screws.

The battery: I bought two 600 mah, 6-volt NiCd cordless phone battery packs from Radio Shack and wired them in series to the coaxial power plug. When fully charged it reads 13.4 volts on my meter and I have yet to run out of battery power in one day of operation.

My very first contact with my new Rock-Mite was to a station in Seattle, WA. That was with 250mw out to my Carolina Windom antenna.

When I took the little rig out to the park, I worked a station in North Carolina using my MP-1 portable vertical antenna. The output power of the Rock-Mite is dependant, I think, by the luck of the draw on parts tolerance.

If more power is desired, there are lots of mods listed on the Internet. This is the most popular mini rig on the market, try it and you'll see why.

With winter coming close, this would be a good time to heat up the iron and try your hand at home brewing. At \$27.00 including shipping makes this kit the most "bang for the buck" you will find anywhere.



The Nursing Home Loop

Dick, AF8X

THIS SUMMER I installed a Carolina Windom across my yard with the vertical part of the feed line dropping near the edge of my roof and about midway along the back of my deck. My XYL objected to that "ugly wire" hanging over her head and so, to keep peace in the family, I spent \$1,100.00 on an awning to cover the deck and hide that "ugly wire" from view. I also opted to take down my other wire antennas and my vertical to gain even more favor from the XYL, thinking the Windom would cover everything I needed.

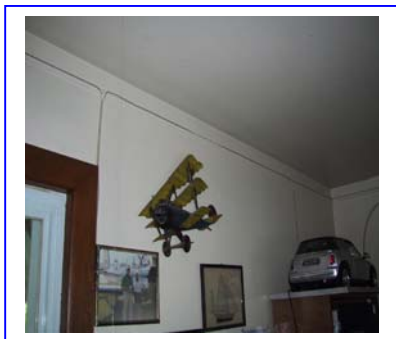
Well the Windom is a fine antenna, but I have three radios and switching the antenna from one to the other got to be too much fuss, besides I sometimes like to have two radios on at the same time on different bands, also it needed to be grounded when not in use in case of electrical storms.

My solution was an indoor antenna. I first thought of the attic, however my house is a ranch style with very little room above the ceiling, so after some thought I came up with what my ham friends like to call (because of my age I suppose) the Nursing Home Antenna. It consists of a length of wire stapled on top of the trim molding on the walls just a couple inches down from the ceiling. It's not too noticeable and when I find some paint the same color of the walls, it will be completely invisible. *See photo #1.*

My shack is a small ten-foot square room, so the total wire length was forty feet. The loop is fed at the center of one wall; *see circled area in photo #2*, with 300-ohm TV wire. It is terminated at the K1 by connection to a BNC/dual post connector; *see photos #3 & #4.* The K1 loads perfectly on all four bands (15, 20, 30, 40) with the internal tuner and without a balun.

I was doubtful about the performance of such a small antenna especially being inside of a room, however my very first contacts on 15 meters were Italy, and England! I have since worked: Ireland, Germany, France, and a couple more Italian stations, besides making a number of stateside contacts, all on 5 watts. I was also pleasantly surprised at the reduced QRN on 40 meters using this antenna.

My friends were only teasing when they named this the Nursing Home Antenna, but it would be an option for someone in a situation where erecting an outdoor antenna was prohibited. Not necessarily a Nursing Home, but could be an alternative for condos, apartments, etc. I think all hams like to experiment with antennas, I know I have had many a bright idea crash and burn, but this one is a definite winner.



#1



#2



#3



#4

Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht frist and lsat ltteer is at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by it slef but the wrod as a wlohe.

Swap 2003—From Page 1

Secondly, I want to thank Mark Milby, W8IR and his wife Peg, W8PEG with son John. Mark not only organized the 3:00 a.m. set up and clean-up, but provided security at all doors—plus he was my squire, since there are times that I am unable to drive to various places.

And who could forget the kitchen crew. Walt, Dennis and Brian supervised by Charlene. Someone needs to keep the boys in line. I know that Laura Klovski was cashier.

I thank Laura and Nancy, KB8QMS for doing vendor check-in.

I could go on mentioning each individual, but the column would be too long, so I will just list the members who did sign in.

- Eric Richardson, N8CTQ
- William Osladil, W8OAF
- Sandra Lane, KC8NYU
- Alicia Dearman, KC8NYP
- Robert Schroeder, KC8RPL
- Paul Valko, W8KC
- George L. Schutte, K8GEO
- David Scott, KC8TTQ
- Mike Koenig, N5WCS

- Ann Manor, KT8F
- Phil Manor, W8IC
- Floyd Soo, W8RO
- Tom Jenkins, KC8LOC
- Jim Wickstrom, W1IK
- Rich Davis, K8PJQ
- John Ibbs, KC8WSK
- Jerry Mcginn, K8CFY
- Mary Cunningham, KC8IAP
- Dave Cunningham, KC8IAQ
- Chris Fiehn Jr., N8ITE
- Jim Hoofman, KC8WXF
- Charles Dalzell, KC8KBO
- Gerald Cayan, KC8FYQ
- Doug Faekler, KC8VWW
- Chris Fiehn, N8TTE
- Jerry Radcliffe, N8KLX
- Bob Adams, W8BHF
- Joe Kennedy, N8OZ
- Dave Edenfield, KC8RVF
- Cliff Ibbs, KC8WHL
- Betty McGinn, N8SIH

If your name does not appear on here, you are equally thanked.

The winner of the \$100.00 door prize was Victor Doper III, W8VKD.

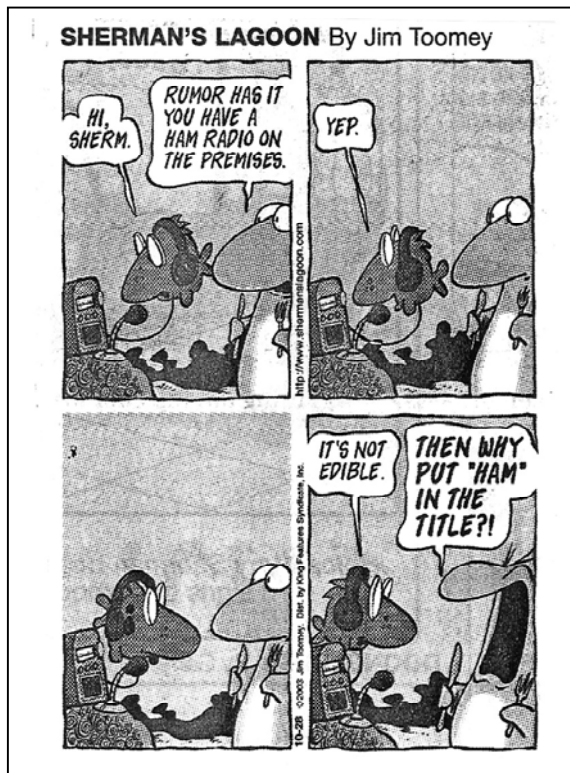
How's Your Code Speed?—From Page 4

A look at each group's diet showed some promise. 12 of the 15 high-speed ops ate a high-carb diet as opposed to the slower group of operators, whose diet consisted of almost all protein. The exercise part of the program was not very popular so I decided to proceed with the diet alone.

Ten of the slow operators agreed to participate in a test involving a change of diet to high carb meals for 30 days. After only 15 days on this diet, six of the operators could copy 20 WPM and all but one of the others increased their code speed by at least 6 WPM. Further tests at the end of the 30 days showed improvement in all fifteen op's code speed, with four of the group able to copy 35 WPM!

It appears that the effect of diet on mental quickness has been a closely guarded secret discovered by German scientists sometime during the war years of the '40s. Professor Schmidt was the first to apply this technique to commercial use. The U.S. Government has also been experimenting with different diets for their astronaut-training program.

[NOTE: If you read this article this far, I've been advised by the author . . . "April Fool's!"—Ed.]



—Submitted by Arpad, WY8M

Antenna Install—From Page 6

You can drill thru the mast and use long thin bolts (#10-ish) to hold the pulley in place, or even simple hose clamps depending on what style you bought. You're not holding that much weight, just some wire, a balun, and a bit of coax. So don't over-engineer it.

You'll need a spot to tie off that pulley rope once the wire antenna is up. I used a key ring hose clamped to the mast about five feet from the bottom. A small eyebolt will work great, too. Just remember to put the haul-up rope in the pulley before erecting the mast!

Coax

Yeah, I guess ya gotta get that signal from your radio to the antenna. 50 ohm coax is a great choice. For the HF bands and for runs less than 100', RG-8mini (also known as RG-8X) 50ohm coax is a good yet cheap choice. For the VHF bands the losses are significantly higher per foot of coax so a better grade of coax should be used, depending on the length needed. If the run is <50', you could still use RG-8X without too much sacrifice in performance. If it's over 75', I'd recommend going to a better grade of RG-8.

Running coax is a pain. You may want to spend the extra couple pennies a foot now for the better stuff rather than go thru the whole hassle of rerunning it later. Antennas are far easier to swap out than coax (read: future ant upgrade).

Coax is relatively cheap. Doing a complete coax run from antenna to rig takes a lot of time, planning, and work. Running at least one extra/spare coax at this juncture of your antenna farm project takes very little extra effort, and it saves a LOT of future labor. The coax that's left outside can be just coiled up and the end sealed off to keep water from wicking up the shield braid. Maybe even put a small dab of RTV on the outside exposed end before taping the end of the coax up. When you do go to use it at some future date, just lop off 6"-12" off the end to assure yourself of Clean Virgin Wire.

Coax Connectors

I'd have to say the most common coax connector in ham radio, and CB too, is the PL-259. The mating female connector on your radio is called an SO-239. Several PL-259 coax connectors will be needed, some with "reducers".

PL-259's by design are made to accept the full-sized (almost 1/2") RG-8 or RG-213 series coax. A reducer allows you to put a smaller diameter coax in the PL-259, like RG-8X. Make sure you get the right reducer! There's two basic sizes, one for the RG-8X(mini), and one for the RG-58 which is like the coax on your CB mag mount antenna. The one for the RG-8X or Mini has a slightly larger hole. As a ham, you might as well have some extra PL's around, you will eventually need them. So don't hesitate buy in bulk, with reducers! If you've never soldered one of these, make sure to get someone who has to help ya. They can be tricky.

Antennas

As a new ham, two antennas will probably handle most of your needs for a while. The top of the mast should have some sort of 2M or dualband vertical for local comm.

Again, keep in mind that altitude is everything at VHF/UHF freq's. The second ant should cover some/all of the HF bands. It'll probably be wire, cause it's cheap and efficient. HF vertical antennas are either very expensive, or require extensive ground radial systems to work properly. A wire HF antenna for a new ham just makes good sense. And remember, wire is usually free! If you're rich, skip this article get the 90' aluminum tower buried in yards of concrete with the 11 element 5-band HF beam!

Auxiliary Supports – Dipole Ends

If you string up a wire antenna off the mast, like a dipole or Windom, the center portion of the antenna will, of course, be supported by the mast. However, you still have the two ends to worry about. Both those ends will need to be supported up off the ground via guy rope of some sort. As usual, higher is better, but don't sweat it. These supports need not make the antenna be perfectly in a straight line, or be at the same height as the center. But, keep in mind the higher you get it up, the better it'll work (usually).

At my location, the one end is tied to the tree in the front yard, up about 20'. The other end is tied to the telephone pole. No, no one's ever had an issue with this set up, not even Ma Bell or Mr. CableGuy.

Other ideas are 10'-20' of mast strapped to a fence post (with hose

clamps) with an eyelet at the top, birdfeeder masts, flag pole tops, etc. Not a lot of weight or pull at these wire ends, so don't stress over possible issue with stresses.

Auxiliary Supports – Guy Ropes

If you're running a dipole, you'll want something to keep the mast from bending or swaying around too much. Three or four thin guy ropes will do the trick. No special ropes needed for this project. Just make sure it's not the kind that'll stretch, or that'll defeat the purpose. And, make sure it's weatherproof. Other than that, you're putting very little tension on it so super high strength isn't needed.

I spent couple extra pennies and got thin Dacron rope. It's 3/32" thick, but has nearly 300# tensile strength. And, it's basically everything proof. Except fire. It's UV, weather, stretch, and abrasion resistant. Good stuff.

You can tie off to just about anything; fence posts, bird feeders, flag poles, etc. I have the hasps from old lock/latch kits mounted onto the four corners of my roof. Been up there for years. No problems. Yes, I used plenty of silicon RTV on the screws and under the base.

Holes

Yep, gotta have holes somewhere to bring the coax in. Surprise, eh? Best way I've found is to bring that feedline into the basement is thru the brick mortar. Drill 1/2" holes in the mortar to accommodate the thickest coax you'd probably run, like RG-8 or RG-213.

Plan ahead for a good spot. You don't want to accidentally hit the feedline with your weed-whacker in the summer or have it get in the way of your garden hose.

You'll want to be able to run the coax around the basement somehow, and keep it out of your hair, literally. Use a 3/4" propeller drill to make holes in those basement joists. That'll allow a PL-259 to go thru if it becomes necessary to reroute a feedline to another room. I drilled multiple holes in my joists. By keeping the holes a couple inches from the edge of the wooden beams and at least an inch apart from each other, you won't alter the strength of the joist.

—Continued on Page 12

Antenna Install—From Page 11

Grounding

Well, here's an interesting topic. Some hams don't ground anything. Some hams ground everything, twice, and then ground it again. And there's everything in-between. Ask six hams how they've grounded their antennas and radios and shack, and you'll get six different answers.

I've had some professional exposure to, and experience in, grounding. I've seen what real grounding systems look like. The place I work at has grounding rods all over the place. My shack don't look nuthin' like that! And, I've been happy with that for over a decade.

I have a 4' ground rod at the base of my mast. They're hose clamped together. Nothing fancy. I have a braided strap running from the back of my ICOM 756 PRO-II to my water pipe & some conduit, which does eventually lead to a 10' ground rod that happens to be right at my electrical feed to the house. I've always meant to improve it, but everything seems to work just fine, and I pay my homeowners insurance religiously so I'm not too worried abt lightning strikes! :) Also, grounding is primarily for static dissipation and such. For direct lightning strikes, you're basically screwed anyway. My personal opinion? Don't sweat it. Do what you reasonably can, and get on with life and playing radio. Just make sure your homeowners is paid up...

Tools/Supplies

Hopefully you already have a basic set of tools and supplies like: electric tape, soldering gun/station, solder, drill & bits, pliers, socket set, etc. If not, borrow some for a few days.

Special tools needed may include: 1/2" carbide tipped drill bit (for drilling thru the mortar), 3/4"+ propeller drill bit (for running coax thru the joists/floor), and silicon RTV sealant for the holes in your wall.

How will you get on the roof? Do you have a ladder? No? Get/borrow one. And make sure at least one person helping out is not afraid of heights! You may want a small brick or tile to rest the mast weight on at the ground.

You may also want: Ground rod (old copper waterpipe, etc.), Guy ropes (if you plan to run a dipole), SWR meter or Antenna Analyzer to check the installation with.

The Big Erection

So you've gathered all your stuff together, you've let various friends know you're going to put up a big stick next Saturday, and you can't wait to get it all going. Great. But, before your friends arrive to, ahem, help you get it up; there's a lot that can be done to prepare.

One of the most important logistical issues absolutely essential to the successful completion of your antenna project, the critical step to make sure you've addressed before ANYone shows up, is, to assure there'll be pizza and beer as a reward for all the hard labor about to occur! Seriously though, before drilling thru anything, have an experienced ham stop by to check out how and where you want to route stuff. They can clue you into problems unforeseen by you. Learn from the mistakes of others, it's cheaper!

So now you've got it all planned out. You know where the coax is going to be routed. The holes are drilled in the outer wall, or somehow fed thru a basement window. No, using a functional dryer vent is not an option. You know how much coax you'll need, and have a few lengths that are longer than you need by ten feet. They are longer, right? Once installed, you can always make 'em shorter, but you can't make 'em longer!

You've determined you have a clean path to lift the mast into place, or assemble it on the roof and then tilt it into position. Make absolutely sure you're not going to come close to any high power electrical feeds in the process. This is where the experienced ham can help you assess the situation.

So the gang's all there and things are being assembled. Make sure you tape that PL-259 connector up good. I usually put a thin coat of Vaseline or dielectric silicon grease on the center pin of the PL-259(s) before inserting it into the antenna. No, I'm not kinky. It helps keep the pin from corroding

while exposed to our crappy MI weather and acid rain.

After installing the vertical on the top of the mast, you can use the electric tape to fasten the coax to the mast. A few wraplaps (I made that up) of tape every five feet is good. Don't wrap it all the way down the mast yet. Wait until you get the mast in the chimney straps first. So, just do the top section of mast that you won't be able to get to once it's up. Make sure you make a single small loop of coax, like 6-10" in diameter, just under the antenna. This is to allow for thermal expansion and contraction of the mast and the coax as our seasons change from warm to cold and back.

Install your guy ropes now. A simple way is to put a hose clamp around the mast near the top, maybe just below the pulley. Then, wrap a bunch of either electric or duct tape around to create a "bump". Then, you can just tie your guy ropes around the mast and knot it off tight.

Lift/tilt the mast onto the chimney strap brackets. This will take a few bodies. At least one person on the roof, at least two down below guiding the bottom end. It isn't really heavy, just awkward. Yes, the mast will bend and wiggle around as you try to lift/tilt it into place. Don't be alarmed. It'll be straight once it's up.

Get the U-bolts around the mast and spin the nuts on. Don't tighten it yet. Grab that chunk of brick and position it under the mast. If you're using a mast ground rod, now's a good time to pound it in since you know for sure where the mast will be. Once that's all done, grab the mast up high, and kind of pull down on it with your weight. This will settle it, and the brick and the ground under it. Tighten up those U-bolts on the chimney straps. Finish taping off the vert coax. Keep the coax away from any of the sharp edges of the chimney mount. If it looks like the wind may blow the coax at an edge, wrap several layers of electric taped around the coax at that portion. That way, the tape will wear, not the feedline.

—Continued on Page 13

USECA Cork Board

▶ Radio Items ◀

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

▶ Miscellaneous Items ◀

BELKIN — USB 4-Port Hub. NEW! \$20. K8OEF, Joe, (586) 781-0050 or email: k8oef@k8uo.com.

INTEL Easy PC Camera. Never used. Still sealed. \$25. K8OEF, Joe, (586) 781-0050 or email: k8oef@k8uo.com.

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

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

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

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

USECA Cork Board On The Web

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

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

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

★FOR SALE

ICOM IC-2100H – 2M 55W mobile rig, great condition, still current production, tone encode/decode, large green or amber LCD display, box, manual, mobile mounting bracket, mic; \$125-

ICOM IC-756PRO-II – for more info on this awesome rig with the built-in fish-finder, go to:

<http://www.icomamerica.com/amateur/index2.html> ; rig definitely works as advertised!!!, brick wall filtering, like new, clean, non-smoker, never mobile or outside, complete, freshly back from Icom from its annual check-up, "MARS/CAP" mod'ed, only selling it so I can buy motorcycle stuff; \$2089-

2M J-POLE -- the U-shaped part assembled with copper tube, add coax and some sort of mounting mast (PVC, wood), FREE to a new ham who wants to experiment with J-poles.

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

KENWOOD KLF-1 – in-line DC filter; \$8-

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

CB ANTENNA – abt 26" long, base loaded, base tunable with rings, 3/8" style mount; \$5-

KENWOOD MOBILE MIC – MC-45DM, modular "phone jack" style connector, with DTMF pad; \$14-

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

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

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

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

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

ARGUS 300–slide projector, with assorted old slides and trays; \$25-

Contact Arpad WY8M at: wy8m@arrl.net or wv8m@k8uo.com or at (586) 751-3804 or

Antenna Install—From Page 12

If you're running HF, then tie off your guy ropes now. Make sure you look at your mast from several angles at a distance, to check to see if it's vertical. Adjust the guys as necessary.

Then, hoist up your dipole. Careful not to get entangled in the guys. Tie off the rope. Now go back on the roof and tape off the dipole coax as far up the mast as you can reach. It's a good idea to tape the two coaxes separate. You're probably going to lower the dipole at some future point to play with it, or to put up a different one. It's pretty rare you'd need to lower the mast for the VHF/UHF vert.

Now run your feedlines thru the wall. Gonna need that silicone RTV now to plug up the hole(s). Once the coax is fed into the house, goop up the coax/hole interface from the outside. Feed the coax inward about an inch or two slowly, dragging the RTV inside the hole in the process. Keep adding RTV while pushing it in that inch or two. This will help seal up the coax hole and weather-proof/bugproof it.

Then feed the coax thru the basement rafters/joists to the room of your choice. Feed the coax up thru the floor; either at a corner or maybe by the heater duct. Solder on the PL-259, hook it up, and enjoy!

The End?

Well, hopefully this article has helped to get you prepared for a smooth antenna installation. Obviously, each house and location has it's own set of unique issues and challenges. This article addresses some of them.

Stay tuned for future articles that will address other abodes, living quarters, and unique situations.

73 fer nw de WY8M



Still Going—From Page 2

Thus far, the entire editorial staff continues on its schedule. The plan is to have the most current *Express* on the web no later than the Sunday following the general meeting—and remember, it's in color. (Nice!) If you are in our repeater's coverage area, an announcement could be heard when it is available

for viewing. You can view it before it gets to the printer.

Elections! You can vote early—but not often!

So, to one and all, have a safe and happy holiday season! In other words, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Until next year . . . 73, for now.

Meeting Minutes—From Page 5

Ann, KT8F announced that she is relinquishing the post of Pre-Field Day Chairperson, after having held the post for many years. Please notify the Board if you are interested in taking on the position.

Christmas party: please get your money for your reservation to Ann, KT8F before December 1, 2003. Date for party: Friday December 5, at the Carpathia Club in Sterling Hgts., Plumbrook and Utica Rd. \$20.00 per person. Cash bar. Contact Ann at (586) 751-3893. Address: 4865 Bates, Warren, MI 48092. Email: kt8f@k8uo.com.

Motion to suspend the Floyd, W8RO, 2nd by Bill, N8SA to suspend the meeting for the presentation put on by Jim Wades, WB8SIW. Topic: Era of Morse Telegraphy.

Following the presentation and break, nominations were held.

Nominees are:

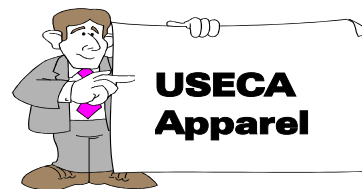
- President – Jim, W1IK (I)
- Vice-President – Dave, KC8IAQ and John, N8HTV
- Recording Secretary – Ann, KT8F (I)
- Treasurer: Delphine, KC8JSH (I)
- Membership Chairperson: Mary, KC8IAP (I)
- Board Members at large:
 - Jerry, N8KLX (I)
 - Dennis, W8DFG
 - Walt, WB8E
 - Scott, WN1B
 - Arpad, WY8M

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary

USECA VE Testing

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



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

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

USECA APPLICATION



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

Rev. 4/01 ARRL YES NO RACES YES NO

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

CALL _____ CLASS _____
 NAME _____
 BIRTHDATE _____
 MEMBER: ARRL YES NO
 RACES YES NO

CALL _____ CLASS _____
 NAME _____
 BIRTHDATE _____
 MEMBER: ARRL YES NO
 RACES YES NO

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

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

Please make check payable to: **USECA — Address: P.O. Box 1222, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-1222**

(Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.)

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



2-Meter LANs

Local Area Nets

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

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

WWW.USECA.NET



Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM 147.180 MHz	SUN. 8 PM** 147.180 MHz	TUES. 8 PM 147.180 MHz	FRI. MIDNIGHT 147.180 MHz
WEEK				
1	VA3IDJ	W1IK	K8QLM	-OPEN-
2	KT8F	KC8DBG	-Meeting-	-OPEN-
3	K8QLM	KC8RVF	-OPEN-	KC8DIR
4	W8IR	KW8K	W8DFG	-OPEN-
5*	WB8E	-ALT-	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

**Traders/Helper Net

HF NETS

	THURS. 9 PM 21.140 MHz/CW	FRI. 10 PM 21.140 MHz/CW	FRI. 11 PM 28.425 MHz/USB
WEEK			
1	K8QLM	-OPEN-	KC8LOC
2	N8MOJ	W8RO	KA2IBE
3	W8RO	W8IC	K8QLM
4	AA8DD	WB8E	-OPEN-
5*	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

*If applicable

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

USECA

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P.O. Box 1222 • Sterling Heights, MI 48311-1222

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DECEMBER 2003

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
DEC	5		USECA 16th Annual Christmas Party
DEC	9	7:30 pm	General Meeting (Elections)

Swaps

Day	Month	Date	Where
SUN	DEC	7	L'Anse Creuse
SUN	JAN	18	Hazel Park

Source: ARRL

6-METER NETS

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

*If applicable

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

Name Badges

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