



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC. Volume 22, Number 10, December 2006

Election:

Nominees

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

President

Chuck, N8ZA (I)

Vice President

Brad, N8VI (I)

Recording Secretary

Ann, KT8F (I)

Treasurer

Dennis, W8DFG (I)

Membership Secretary

Ken, KW8Z (I)

Keith, N8EB

Board Member (3 Elected)

Walt, WB8E (I)

Joe, N8OZ (I)

Jim, WY8I

Arpad, WY8M

Bill, N8SA

Tom, N8ZI

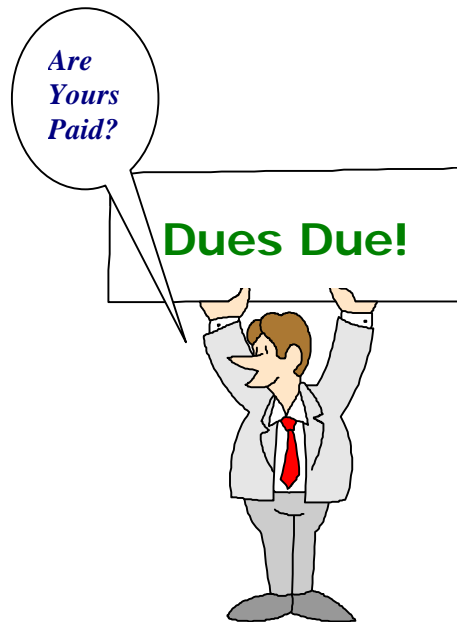
(I) Incumbent

Eat B 4 U Meet

December's menu, and for the usual small nominal fee, we will serve Sloppy Joes and accessories, starting at 6:00 PM.

Please note: As we enter into the winter months, please park in the lower half of the parking lot so that the Euchre players from the Elks do not have to park down there and complain. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Dennis, [W8Dah](#) [Food Guy](#)



Nominations Committee

FOR THOSE of you that were not at the November meeting, our President appointed the Past Presidents to the Nominations Committee. Nominations were open and those nominated are listed in this newsletter [left-hand column].

If you are interested in running, nominations will be opened prior to the vote being taken. Anyone nominated just before the vote will not be on the ballot that we will be using.

Anyone requesting an absentee ballot, please contact Ken, KW8Z for same.

Dennis W8DFG

Past President/Trustee/Treasurer

USECA's 2006 Christmas Party

Ann, KT8F

THIS YEAR'S Christmas Dinner Party Gala will take place at our meeting place, the Elk's Club in Mt. Clemens. The date is Saturday, December 2. Cocktails will be available at 6:30 PM; dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. We are happy to announce that, as in the past, a superb dinner will be catered by Zucarro's. Their food, from experience, is most excellent. We will be served chicken with artichoke sauce and pork loin. Also included is a pasta dish, potatoes and vegetables, salad, rolls/butter, and a dessert assortment. Coffee and tea are provided, taxes & tips included for a price of \$15.00 per person. There will be a cash bar.



We will hold the White Elephant Gift Exchange this year, as it has been an enjoyable event in the past. This is voluntary—bring a gift, get a gift. The gift could be something you have around the house, but don't need or want. Funny gifts are often fought over. It should be something someone else could conceivably want.

Make your reservations with Ann, KT8F (586) 751-3893, or email: kt8f@wideopenwest.com, or you can mail a check for your reservations to: Ann Manor, 4865 Bates Dr., Warren, MI 48092. Make checks payable to USECA. You can also contact Dennis, W8DFG if that is more convenient. Cut-off date is Saturday, November 25. Family and friends are welcome—the more the merrier.

Hope to see you there!

Next Meeting — December 12 — Elections

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison	Bobby/N8CY (248) 879-7214
Awards Manager	Chris/KV8Z
Door Prizes	—OPEN—
Editor	Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
Field Day Chair	Phil/W8IC & Ann/KT8F (586) 751-3893
Health & Welfare	Walt/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Liaison	Dave/KC8TTO
Mailers/Sorters	Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
Net Manager	Brian/KC8DIR (586) 749-4561
Photographer	Wes/KD8DHS
Program Director	Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609
Public Relations Officer	Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
Refreshments	Walt/WB8E; Richard/KC8HMJ
Repeater Trustee	Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Swap Director	Tom/KD8AVF (586) 651-7239; kd8avf@k8uo.com
Technical Director	Floyd/W8RO (248) 391-6660
Technicians	W8IC; K8FT; WA8GQL; W11K; AD8S; N8SA
VE Testing	Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Webmaster	Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

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

PROGRAMMERS

Dennis/W8DFG	Jim/W11K	Brad/N8VI
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The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF



Great news—this *Express* is being mailed to all our members. This was done to be sure the membership is informed of the upcoming elections of our club officers and also, remind you it's time to "pay the piper" (your dues).

On Page 8 you will find an article from a previous *Express* (circa 2003) titled "What Is An American?" This is really scary—just yesterday November 14, 2006 was a real eye-opener on the Glenn Beck Program (CNN) about what is REALLY happening in the Middle East—you wouldn't believe it if I told you; you'd have to see it to believe it. The program showed what no other news media has ever shown about the propaganda instilled in those people from little children on up. If Iran gets atomic weapons you might just as well go look up the holocaust and history could repeat itself. I am very concerned. We had better wake up before it's too late (ask the French).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all.

73 for now.

FREE FOOD!

See Page 3

"From the PREZ."

USECA Fox Hunts

Keith, N8EB

I HAVE BEEN running the USECA Fox Hunt for the last 10 or 11 months, and we have been having a riot! It seems like we have the same 4 or 5 crews that do the searching, and we thought we would like to share the fun with our ham friends that are NOT USECA members.

The Fox Hunt is from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. You do NOT need any fancy equipment to participate! As a matter of fact for the October Fox Hunt Chuck, N8ZA found us with just an HT and rubber ducky antenna driving all by himself!

If you have absolutely no equipment whatsoever, all you have to do is be at the Mt Clemens Elks Lodge by 6:00 pm to check in and I am sure that you can catch a

ride with one of the other search crews—most vehicles only have 2 people in them so there is usually open seats for you to ride in.

Remember, you do NOT need to be a USECA member—it does NOT cost you a penny—it really helps you hone your hidden transmitter skills, and most of all, it is a lot of FUN! Even if you are not licensed, you can ride along with the other crews!

So please pass the word on, that we really would like more people to get involved in our Fox Hunts—talk it up on all the repeaters you use.

If you want any more info, feel free to contact me — n8eb@arrl.net

From the Trustee's Desk

Dennis, W8DFG—Trustee/Treasurer

Greetings and Salutations

It has been sometime since I have written an article for the *Express*. I would like to pass along some Repeater Operating Procedures to remind old and possibly educate new amateur operators. Remember these are only suggestions.

- 1.) Monitor the repeater to become familiar with any peculiarities in its operation. Also monitor the conversation on the repeater before jumping in on the conversation.
- 2.) To initiate a conversation on the repeater simply indicate you are on frequency. "This is W8DFG monitoring." Please don't kerchuck the repeater just to see if the repeater is working.
- 3.) Identify legally, you must identify at the end of your transmission and at least once every 10 minutes.
- 4.) Please, pause between transmissions. This will allow people who might have emergency traffic to get in to the repeater. Plus this will allow the Courtesy Tone to enable and reset the time-out-timer. We are sharing a frequency, not on a private one, so please watch the quick keying.

Keep your transmissions short and to the point. Ones "monologue" may prevent someone with an emergency from using the repeater. If you talk long enough you will time out the repeater as well as quick keying and not letting the timer reset itself.

These are just the basics that we would like to use on the USECA Repeater.

Now—on to a policy that we have concerning stations who may interfere with the operation of the repeater. For the past couple of months we have had a problem with a non-licensed operator. When this happens, please ignore this individual. Do **not** acknowledge that he's on the air; keep operating, as you would normally do. At times a Control Operator will put the repeater in what we call "Turkey Mode." By doing this the Courtesy Tone as well as the squelch tail is disabled. The repeater is still functioning. Please, again, operate as you normally would, without making any remarks such as "what happen to the Courtesy Tone" or "I must have bumped something on my radio." When a Control Operator returns the repeater to normal use, nothing needs to be said about the Courtesy Tone being activated. Anyone listening to the repeater can hear everything you hear. Again, operate as you normally would.

If you do hear someone causing interference on the repeater, check the reverse frequency and see if you have a strong signal from the interferer. If you have the capability of swinging a beam antenna, get a bearing on the signal and report all information to the Interference Committee, Phil, W8IC, Tom, N8ZI, or myself.

As I stated earlier, these are suggestions, but it is a guideline for all to follow.

From the PREZ

IT HAS BEEN almost a year since I've been your president. At this time, I would like to thank all of you for the privilege of allowing me to be part of this wonderful organization. We should all be proud of our club.

We are fortunate to have a great meeting place. We usually have an "eat B 4 we meet" dinner for a very good price prior to the meetings. Don't forget about the hidden transmitter hunt before each meeting. The hunt starts at 6 PM, same time as the dinner. Hunters can usually find the fox and still have time for a nice dinner. The meetings start at 7:30 PM.

After the business portion of the meeting, the club often has excellent presentations from members like W8RO, N8VI and W1IK. The presentations are very interesting and informative about many aspects of ham radio.

We also host several nets on our repeater. Please check in on these nets whenever you have time. Jim, W1IK runs the CW training class on Monday at 9 pm. This net is a useful tool for anyone who desires to learn Morse code. Also, let's not forget about our HF nets on both phone and CW. We also, in my opinion, have one of the best field days around. So, how are all these wonderful things possible?

It's YOU, the members, that makes it all happen. Now it's time to renew our memberships in one of the best clubs in the world. Please, take a moment to appreciate all that this club has to offer. This club has so much potential because of you and your fellow members. Let's continue to work together to move our club forward.

If you know of anyone who might enjoy our club, you are encouraged to bring them to a meeting or other event. Hopefully, they will also want to become part of our USECA family, after seeing why you and I have chosen this club.

As a way to show our appreciation, if you decide to renew or join at the December meeting, you will receive ONE free serving of our "eat B 4 we meet" dinner. Let's make this a well-attended meeting. Come and join in some good fellowship and fun—hope to see you there.

73, N8ZA



Performance Anxiety

Arpad, WY8M

NOPE. SORRY, this article will have little to do with sexual dysfunction and a lot more to do with our USECA Thursday night slow-code CW nets (which occurs Thursday on 15M at 9pm on 21.140MHz...but you knew that, right?).

I've heard a lot of good feedback regarding our Thursday night CW net. I understand that a lot more listen in than check in, for the code practice. But, seems many are too shy or somewhat apprehensive about checking in to the net, or worried about brain freeze. That's why this article is being written! The information presented below should help ease you into checking into your first CW net.

First, for those listening and having trouble following along, this is what I usually send when I run the net. Other NCO's (net control ops) will send a similar outgoing CW message. My first tx would be: "CQ CQ DE USECA NET QNN WY8M CK IN NW K."

Or something very similar. No, I have no idea what speed I'm sending at. My hi-dollar ICOM 756 ProII doesn't display keyer speed like my Kenwood 570's did. Stupid, eh? So, I just guess, and shoot for around 10wpm. Oh, "QNN" means "net control is" or "is net control." It's a good idea to have a list of the Q-codes handy, but I stick to the common Q-codes during the net, like: QNN, QNI, QTH, QSL, QRS.

Subsequent calls for check ins to the net may go like this, since I've thrown out my call already several times: "CQ CQ DE USECA NET CK IN NW QNI K" or "CQ CQ DE USECA NET CK IN NW K."

Now, please understand that if the call for check-ins is too fast for you, the net control will slow down for you. It's the whole reason we run the Thursday night CW nets, for folks just getting into CW and wanting the practice. But, we have no idea what your comfortable speed is, until you tell us or let us

know somehow. It is very possibly that when the NCO is in QSO with a check in, they know that that check in can copy faster, so they send faster, for them.

So, how do you get the NCO to slow down, you ask? Simple! Easy! Just check in at the speed you want to copy at, and also throw in a QRS. QRS means "please slow down." Like this sample check in; "WY8M Arpad pse QRS." That's it. And, know that the NCO is more than willing to comply, to the best of their ability, to accommodate your speed.

(Sorry, have to break away from typing this for a moment...Zambia (9J) was coming in purty gud on 15M! Trying to work him now...)

Okay, so once you're checked in, the net control will send it over to you. I know I know, panic time! Palms get sweaty. Sending arm gets cramped. Fingers won't listen to your brain. Your linguistic and grammar skills suddenly go out the window. You just wanna hit the off switch on the power supply and go get a beer to calm down. (Actually, having a beer first ain't such a bad idea! Then, when you make a little mistake, which you will, you won't care so much.). See, the beauty of CW is that you can make mistakes in sending, and the dood (or doodette) on the other end will be able to deal with it. It's like playing Wheel of Fortune. Trust me, the NCO will figure it out. For what it's worth, I can't recall ever sending 100% perfectly in a whole extended QSO, ever. I've always made a mistake at some point. We all have built-in speel-chackarz. Don even werry 'bout it.

(Got him! Worked that 9J Zambian station on 21.033.4. Actually had a short QSO. Usually, DX stations get too piled up on to give you more than a quick 5NN. My QSL card is already filled out.)

So anyway, it's your turn. Take a deep breath, relax, and send at your comfortable speed. Uhm...

What to send? Hmm...Well, no one is looking for a novel, or even a short story, so don't worry about content or length. There's no awards being handed out on this net for the longest QSO. Keep it simple. Make it easy on yourself. On your first couple check ins, just say something like; "hi to all on net" or "tnx fer net." And don't forget to sign out with your call. Don't need to send the NCO's call, just send something like "tnx 73 de urcall."

NOW...a big sigh of relief! You've just checked into your first CW net! Wow. Another milestone in your ham history logged. Wasn't that hard, was it? Wipe the sweat off your brow, wipe your palms down on your pant legs, and have a swig of that 807; you've earned it! And, as long as you're still around, keep the pencil and paper handy, and try to copy the rest of the net for practice. CW is a skill, and like any skill, your copy gets better the more you do it.

Some of you may be saying HEY! I sent out my call out a couple times, but the NCO didn't acknowledge me! Why does he ignore me? You hear the net control just fine, but he don't hear U. Well, that happens. Welcome to the wild and wacky world called radio. No, he's not ignoring you. He really truly can't hear you! First, check all of your gear. Maybe you just tuned up on your outboard tuner, and as a good lil' ham you used low power while doing it? Check your power. Also, check your SWR. Most rigs are quick to automatically reduce power, drastically, when presented with a poor SWR. Are you inadvertently running splits via dual VFO's? Do you have an XIT on? Double check everything, then try again. Are you sure you're checking in when check-ins are actually being called? Wait and listen. Listening is a very important skill on HF!

—Continued on Page 9

USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—November 7, 2006

In attendance:

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

*Absent



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

Correspondence: none

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

Treasurer's report provided by Dennis, motion to accept made by Jim, supported by Ann, motion carried.

Membership: Ken reported 192 current members, after 5 new applications that were approved by the BOD. Applications reviewed and accepted.

Webmaster: Brad, N8VI – website up and working. We are waiting on the transfer of the Domain name.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – no report.

Trustee: Dennis, W8DFG – discussion re: the interference committee. Phil, W8IC is the head of the committee. Tom, N8ZI and Brad, N8VI have been added to the committee.

Technical report given by Jim. We are in the process of getting audio filters set up and ready to install.

Field Day: Phil, W8IC – results from the 2006 Field Day have not been published yet as of today.

Swap: Tom, N8ZI provided a preliminary report. Great job, Tom.

Health and Welfare: Walt reported that all business has been taken care of.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Walt, WB8E agreed to head up the 2007 T-shirt committee.

Christmas party: Ann is currently collecting for the party. See article elsewhere in this issue. The cut-off date to make reservations is Saturday, November 25.

The election committee will consist of past presidents and will be headed up by Dennis. Nominations – November General meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Brad, supported by Walt. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM. Following the meeting, an audit of the books by the 3 directors took place.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary

General Meeting—November 14, 2006

In attendance:

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

*Absent

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

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

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Jim, WY8I and 2nd by Brad, N8VI, motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Dennis, W8DFG. Report given on swap proceeds. Motion to approve made by Steve, N8XO and 2nd by Alec, KC8ZIR, motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z: 191 members currently. Taking renewals now. If you want to be included in the roster, you must renew by the general meeting in February, 2007.

Website: report provided by Brad, N8VI on the status of the website and the domain name.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – articles due tonight. Will extend the deadline 2 days if anyone wishes to place a campaign statement for the election. The December issue will go out in the mail to all members due to the election.

Technical report: Jim, W11K reported on the current status. Repeater is working well. Working on installing the filters. All receive sites are active at this time.

ARRL: Bobby, N8CY reported on current and upcoming events.

Trustee's report given by Dennis, W8DFG. He reminded our members when the repeater is in "turkey mode," i.e., no courtesy tone, to please just operate normally and not make remarks about the tone's absence. If you do hear a station intentionally interfering, please listen on the input (the reverse) and make a report on your findings to the interference committee. w8ic@arrl.net. Do not make comments on the air regarding the interference.

Field day: Phil, W8IC reported on this year's stats. We ended up in 11th place overall, 1st place in Michigan as well as the Great Lakes Region.

Swap: Tom, N8ZI reported on our swap – we did well. Thanks to everyone who participated in this successful event.

Old Business:

Ann, KT8F is collecting for the Christmas party. See article elsewhere in this issue for details.

—Continued on Page 9

Big Fish Lurk Deep In Calm Waters...

Written by WY8M, talking to himself

(COUGH) MAN, I hate being sick. (cough-cough-snort) Good thing I took today off, didn't have any meetings today anyway, not like I wanted to be there anyhow, work sucks. What to do...what to do now...hmm...why did I get up so late? Guess I musta really needed my rest. Why does this Robitussin knock-off taste like crap? Oh yeah...S'posed to, it's medicine. Pot-cooked oatmeal and bananas were good. Full now. We're out of bananas. Still got apples. Now...Ehh, bring the dx posts up...ehh, nothing on the higher bands, nothing posted from around me really. Yay. Welcome to solar min. But that article in World Radio did sorta prove the true min was July 2006, sunspot field reversal and all. Good, 'bout time. Was fun working HF most of the weekend, kinda missed it after a summer of hard motorcycling. Well, let's poke around HF anyway. 20M has a bit going on. 18M has a slight sign of life, 30M...twiddle the VFO up and down...wonder what's on 15M. Nothin'. Static. Can't wait for this next solar peak to ramp up. Wazthis? Man, that guy's weak, only sig I hear on 15M. Italy. Hmm, Europe is trying to open up? Maybe monitor this for a few minutes?

Narrow down to 500Hz, add a little NB, a touch of NR. Oh drat, coffee mug's empty. Milk, where's the milk? Ah. Okay, fresh coffee! (slurp) Ahh. That Italy guy's come up a bit. "WY8M WY8M WY8M". Bingo! Bag yet another Italy. Weak tho. Dang, I should get a Worked All Italy certificate or sumthin', that and a WAG cert, Worked all Germany. Ore in Italy gets a 549. Still nuthin' else on the band. Well, might as well send out memory keyer CQ's while deleting emails, let's do dot 027, just outside the extra portion. "CQ CQ CQ CQ de WY8M WY8M..." Type reply to Barb's email, great, she's getting the bubonic plague now too. "CQ CQ CQ CQ de WY8M WY8M..." That dirt bike video Mark sent was funny! Those guys are whackjobs. "CQ CQ CQ CQ de WY8M WY8M..." It's nice hearing cw in the shack, even if it's... Ears perk, weak cw. What's that? Stop the auto-keyer NOW dammit! "QRZ de WY8M"? What was that call? 6Y? 6Y what? What? Damn, that's weak. "Pse agn de WY8M"? 6Y7BP?? Ah! Band came up! 7Q7BP! "7Q7BP QSL?" Kinda weak. He said yes again! Damn, a 7Q! Ok. What the heck is a 7Q? No time. Work first, check later. "7Q7BP de WY8M ur 439 439 bk". Wonder, is

that Caribbean? Prolly, 'cause it's around noon and N-S prop should be kicking in heavy and on a dead band like this that's usually all you hear this time of day. No biggie. "WY8M de 7Q7BP ur 579 579 bk" Hmm.... I copied it right, triple checked, that's the most important part, got the call, got the call confirmed. All is well. Okay, the kiss-off "tnx call es 73 73 7Q7BP de WY8M dit dit" aannd... the expected "dit dit" back. Cool. Ok. Start sending CQ again, don't wanna lose the freq to some vacationing tropics guy holding an umbrella drink. "CQ CQ CQ CQ de WY8M WY8M..." Band must be opening. Now, the list, where's the dx list? Ah, here it is. 7Q...7Q...7Q...Malawi? Africa??? Whoa! Why didn't I send him a longer qso? Idiot. Why didn't I get his name??? Sigh. But, then I unconsciously smile smugly. Well, at least I got him! Dial up USECA, maybe Walt's listening; "QST, Malawi on 15M, dot 033!" Man, it's amazing what a "dead band" will produce! **Never give up on a "dead" band!**

73 de WY8M

[Unedited due to Arpad's unique style of writing —Ed.]

[Another Blast From The Past]

MURS

LAST MONTH I told you that the FCC had created the Multi-Use Radio Service that was effective as of 13 November. I had a slight brain cramp and listed four frequencies and there are five authorized: 151.820, 151.880, 151.940, 154.570, and 154.600 MHz.

As uses for this service develop, I predict it will be of great use to public service groups.

The rules allow 2 watts ERP (effective radiated power) and exter-

nal antennas, unlike the Family Radio Service (UHF) which limits output to half watt and does not allow any antenna except that which is attached to the radio.

MURS rules seem to allow data, telephone interconnect, perhaps a repeater, and who know what other applications.

The service does not require a license and can be used for personal and family communications needs.

Business communications continue to be allowed as well. If you plug the frequencies in your scanner, you'll hear various business uses including such transmissions as those from drive-through windows at fast food restaurants.

—World Radio, January 2001

Emails: Kenwood's TM-V7A

October 12, 2006 4:44 AM
To: KCC-Amateur
Subject: TM-V7A Front Screen

I am the owner of TWO of your Kenwood radios that were purchased approximately four (or more) years ago.

I have a MAJOR problem ... on BOTH radios the front screen are completely unreadable. (No, the contrast does not fix it.)

Just this week, I heard of two other amateurs who have this problem (N8SA and KC8LDN).

Discussing this problem with other local amateur operators in my area, one stated a possibility of Kenwood replacing these so-call defective parts.

If this is correct, please advise what I must do to remedy this problem.

Thanks & 73.

Joe J./K8OEF/Shelby Twp., MI

October 12, 2006 10:38 AM
Hello Joe:

This pertains to the TM-V7A vertical lines in the LCD assembly, Kenwood NO longer covers any extended warranty repair for this issue.

We have covered out of warranty no charge repairs of this for the last three years that courtesy repair has ended.

If you need further assistance, please e-mail us again.

You may also call for Customer Support at: (310) 639-4200 you will hear three prompts when your hear a voice press 5, voice again 2, and voice again 1.

You may also fax to (310) 537-8235, or email to: kcc-amateur@kenwoodusa.com
<mailto:kcc-amateur@kenwoodusa.com>

Sincerely, Leo Fahmie KJ6HI
Kenwood Amateur Radio Customer Support

October 12, 2006 10:39 AM
Hello Joe:

You have a few choices you may send them in for repair, or you may save some money and replace the TM-V7A LCD assembly yourself.

The TM-V7A LCD assembly part number is B38-0919-05. I will also attach an exploded view of the detachable front face for your assistance.

Sincerely, Leo Fahmie KJ6HI
Kenwood Amateur Radio Customer Support

October 12, 2006 8:17 AM
To: KCC-Amateur
Subject: Re: TM-V7A Front Screen

Well ... shame on me for waiting so long to take some action on this problem. I should have addressed this 1-1/2 years ago when the problem began.

Vertical lines? Are you kidding, one of my units shows NOTHING, the other one is about 80 percent gone.

I went to the parts link and I see they are out of stock.

Total price including shipping is \$171.80. (Ouch!)

I may try to do it on one of my units and see how complex it is.

Thanks for your quick responses.

73, Joe

WD8CRT's Travels



From: <V73NS@aol.com>
Subject: V73 QRV AGAIN JAN 2007
Date: Sunday, November 12, 2006 9:13 PM

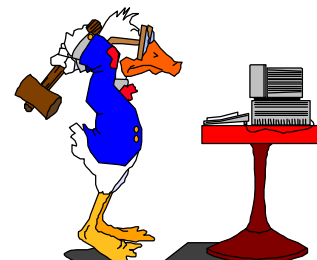
I will be QRV again (all CW) from Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands in Jan. 2007. I will be there for the following two years, at least.

My address will be the same as it was last time I was there. QSL routes will be the same too. If I owe anyone cards, please wait, I will get them out soon. I had no time to do them while in Iraq or Japan.

[_www.qsl.net/v73ns_](http://www.qsl.net/v73ns)
(<http://www.qsl.net/v73ns>)

73
Neil

[Be sure to visit his site—you will see some spectacular pictures—Ed.]



[This Page—Two Blasts From Previous Express']

Solar Activity—What Do All Those Numbers Mean?

Dick, AF8X

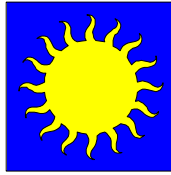
MANY HAMS CHECK the solar activity reports for propagation conditions, but I suspect there are a lot of hams like me who have never taken the time to learn how to read those reports.

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 to 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!

What Is An American?

YOU PROBABLY MISSED it in the rush of news last week, but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American.

So an Australian dentist wrote the following to let everyone know what an American is, so they would know when they found one.

An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani, or Afghan. An American may also be a Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans.

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim.

In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses. An American is also free to believe in no religion.

For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.



An American is from the most prosperous land in the history of the world.

The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each person the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need. When Afghanistan was overrun by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country. As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan.

Americans welcome the best, the best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best

athletes. But they also welcome the least.

The national symbol of America, The Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built America.

Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, 2002 earning a better life for their families. I've been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 other countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and every bloodthirsty tyrant in the history of the world.

But, in doing so you would just be killing yourself. Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place.

They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.

—Internet

Meeting Minutes—From Page 5**New Business:**

Dennis, W8DFG brought to the membership an idea to possibly change the general meeting night to the second Monday of the month. The BOD meeting would remain on Tuesday. Other groups do not use the Elk's Club on Monday night. This is just something to consider at this time.

Walt, WB8E reminded members to put their donations in the can for the snacks.

Nominations opened at 9:00 PM by Dennis, W8DFG

President: Chuck, N8ZA (I)

Vice President: Brad, N8VI (I)

Recording Secretary: Ann KT8F (I)

Membership Secretary: Ken, KW8Z (I); Keith, N8EB

Treasurer: Dennis, W8DFG (I)

Board Members: Tom, N8ZI; Joe, N8OZ (I), Jim, WY8I;

Walt, WB8E (I); Bill, N8SA;

Arpad, WY8M.

If you need an absentee ballot, contact Ken, KW8Z.

Absentee ballots must be received 2 days prior to the general meeting. Nominations will remain open but will not be recorded in the Express, which is going to press this week.

Nominations will be reopened prior to the election in December.

Motion to adjourn made by Walt, WB8E and supported by Jim, WY8I at 9:14 PM, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary

Performance Anxiety—From Page 4

Gear issues aside, the NCO may simply not hear you. Hopefully someone else is close enough to you that can hear you, and, can relay your check in. Be persistent. Don't let this little obstacle dissuade you from checking in. You can also send the word "relay" with your call in an attempt to be checked in. The person relaying will tell you when to go, a temp-NCO if you will.

For what it's worth, when I'm NCO, I've heard every check in calling. The Pro-II does have great ears, but I may need to switch antenna polarity to hear you. Be patient.

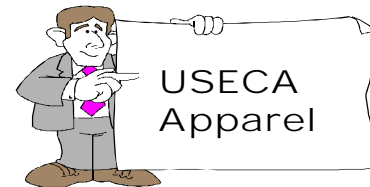
I hope this has given you the necessary nudge to get you to check into the Thursday night slow-code CW net! See you there soon!

73 de WY8M dit dit

[Unedited due to Arpad's unique style of writing—Ed.]

USECA VE Testing

Testing will be the FIRST Thursday of the month from September through June. Joe, N8OZ will have the CVE duty. No pre-registration is needed or wanted. Test Fee is \$14.00. Applicants need copies and originals of CSCE's and/or license. There is no copy machine at the Elks; (there is none close by). Starting time is 7:00 p.m. — please do not arrive earlier. Walk-ins are welcomed. Test site is at the Mt. Clemens Elks, 179 S. Main St., Mt. Clemens. If testing, you must have the following: picture ID (or birth certificate); and a copy of your current license or completion certificates, if any.



Jackets—\$45.00 • Sweatshirts—\$25.00
Polo Shirts—\$22.00 • Caps—\$6.00
(2X & 3X—Additional Charge)
Contact: Chuck, N8ZA
At Meetings or Phone (586) 557-4983

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

USECA Cork Board

? Radio Items?

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

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

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

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

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

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

HUSTLER 4-BTV Vertical antenna. 10-15-20 & 40 meters. In excellent condition, \$75.00. af8x@arrl.net or home (586) 791 3595, cell 322 4106. Dick

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

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

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

Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248)-431-7769.

MFJ-1786. 10-30 MHz Hi-Q Deluxe Loop Antenna. No control cable is needed. Fast/Slow tune buttons and built-in two range Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter let you quickly tune to your exact frequency. \$150.00 af8x@arrl.net or 586 791 3595.

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

WANTED: Motorola Expo batteries in GWO. Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769.

? Miscellaneous Items?

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

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

SONY Trinitron Multiscan E540 21" CRT Computer Monitor with manual; like new; 2 years old. \$150. Contact Joe, K8OEF at (586) 781-0050.

★FOR SALE

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

Power Supply – switching PS, 12-15 VDC, 16A, works, you wire it up; \$20.

Sprague Model 500 – Interference Locator, apparently used by some clever hams as an SWL rig, receives 550kHz to 220MHz, has a phono jack output, external power jacks, still has original Burgess batteries (no leaks) and antennas in the removable lid; \$75.

Optimus 33-3021 – Uni-Directional Microphone, black, on/off switch, cord; \$20.

ElectroVoice 634A – microphone, short cable; \$5.

Archer Video Selector – Radio Shack Cat.# 15-1261, has 7 F-connectors on the back, couple switched up front; \$5.

Archer Special Effects Switcher -- Radio Shack Cat.# 15-1274, 110V; \$5.

Heathkit Assembly Manual HX-10 – good condition, appears complete; \$10.

Heathkit Manual Deluxe SWL Reciever GR-54 – poor condition, may be complete; \$5.

Heathkit 1984 catalog – good condition; \$5.

Micronta Power Supply -- Radio Shack Cat.# 22-124, 12VDC, 2.5A, manual; \$10.

Realistic WX Radio -- Radio Shack Cat.# 12-156, pocket weather radio, built-in telescopic antenna; \$10.

BUD Filter LF-601 – variable low-pass filter, SO-239 PL-type connectors, 5 adjusters; \$20.

Meissner 15-7510 – "Wave Trap" (filter), 6Mc to 13Mc, for ladder-line; \$10.

Optimus AM/FM -- Radio Shack Cat# 12-794, pocket radio, works; \$5.

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

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

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

NEC Computer Monitor – model XV17+, 17"color, works; \$50.

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

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

Cell Phone Mobile Power Cord – for cell phone with 4.8V battery, DC coaxial plug on phone end; \$5.

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

Duckies – UHF duck about 6" with BNC, \$5; dual band 2M/440 "ICOM" style about 6" with BNC, \$15; 11 Meter black rubber duck with right angle PL259, \$5.

K-40 10/11M Whip – 4' fiberglass, black, tunable, substitute for original K-40 stainless whip & base load, no mount or coax just the antenna; \$5.

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

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

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

★New or changed this month.

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

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

Name Badges

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

USECA APPLICATION



Rev. 9/06

DATE _____ NEW RENEWAL MAIL PRINTED NEWSLETTER
 CALL _____ CLASS _____
 NAME _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 TELEPHONE # _____ PRINT # IN ROSTER NO
 BIRTHDATE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____
 MEMBER: **ARRL** YES NO **RACES** YES NO

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

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

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

Annual Membership Dues: Regular: \$20 — Family: \$30 — Mail Printed Newsletter, ADD \$10.00
 Applications can be given to the Membership Secretary at monthly meeting or mailed.
 Please make check payable to: **USECA** — Address: **P.O. Box 46331, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046**
 (Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.)

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

Local Area FM Nets

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

VHF PL'S — 100 Hz

On The World Wide Web
 USECA Home Page

WWW.USECA.NET

Local HF Nets

DAY	TIME	CLUB/DESCRIPTION	FREQ.
MON	7:30 pm	LCARC/15 Meter CW	21.165
MON	9:00 pm	LCARC/15 Meter Phone USB	21.395
WED	7:00 pm	USECA/6 Meter Phone USB	50.150
THU	7:30 pm	LCARC/10 Meter Phone USB	28.435
THU	9:00 pm	USECA/15 Meter Slow CW	21.140
FRI	10:00 pm	USECA/80 Meter CW	3.710
FRI	11:00 pm	USECA/10 Meter Phone USB	28.425

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

Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM	SUN. 8 PM**
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
1	-OPEN-	W1IK
2	KT8F	N8EB
3	-OPEN-	KD8AVF
4	-OPEN-	KW8Z
5*	WB8E	-OPEN-

*If applicable

**Traders/Helpers Net

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

USECA

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL



DECEMBER 2006

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
DEC	2	7:00 pm	USECA 19th Annual Christmas Party
DEC	7	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
DEC	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting (Elections)
JAN	4	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
JAN	9	7:30 pm	General Meeting



***Happy Holidays
To All!***

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