



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC. Volume 24, Number 10, December 2008

USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—November 3, 2008

In attendance:

Tom, N8ZI	President
Alec, NF8X	Vice-President
Ann, KT8F	Recording Secretary
Dennis, W8DFG	Treasurer
Joe, N8OZ	Membership Secretary
Walt, WB8E	Board Member
*Ray, K8RDJ	Board Member
Ken, N8UO	Board Member
Chuck, N8ZA	Past President
*Absent	



Note: board member's call signs are not included in the minutes as they are listed above.

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

Motion to accept the minutes of the last BOD meeting made by Dennis, supported by Alec, motion carried.

A comprehensive report provided by Dennis. He reported on the swap profit. Motion to accept made by Ann, and supported by Chuck, motion carried. Dennis stated our liability insurance is due, with a premium of \$320.00 due December 1. Dennis will bring this to the membership at the general meeting for a vote for approval. An audit of the third quarter will be done following tonight's meeting. Membership: Joe - 155 members.

Webmaster: Alec continues to work on the website - changes are in the works to switch the website to a new server, at less cost. This should be in place next month. We will keep all the functionality we now have.

Swap: Larry, W8NIC reported on our swap. It went well. Larry was very impressed with the number of people that showed up to help set up, work the swap, and take down afterward.

Dennis stated that we have secured the date for next year.

Old Business:

Ann made a motion that \$150.00 be allocated for the Christmas party if the funds are needed. Motion seconded by Alec, vote taken; motion carried.

Chuck made a motion that we make Dick Mason, KA8BDG (a charter member of USECA) a lifetime member. Seconded by Ray, discussion, vote, motion passed.

—Continued on Page 6

USECA 2008 Election Ballot

President

Alec, NF8X
Bill, N8SA
Write-In _____

Vice President

Rob, KD8ENP
Write-In _____

Recording Secretary

Ann, KT8F (I)
Write-In _____

Treasurer

Dennis, W8DFG (I)
Write-In _____

Membership Secretary

Joe, N8OZ (I)
Write-In _____

Board Member (3 Elected)

Chuck, N8ZA
Larry, W8NIC
Larry, W8SOX
Larry, WB8SJD
Ken, N8UO (I)
Ray, K8RDJ (I)
Tom, KD8GZE
Ed, KD8CXJ
Jim, WY8I
Write-In _____

(I) Incumbent

—Submitted by Joe, N8OZ

Next Meeting — December 8 — Elections

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Tom Tincknell/N8ZI (586) 651-7239
Vice President	Alec Beardsley/NF8X (586) 873-8841
Recording Secretary	Ann Manor/KT8F (586) 751-3893
Treasurer	Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Membership Secretary	Joe Kennedy/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Board Member	Walt Gracey/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Board Member	Ray Anderson/K8RDJ (586) 979-4456
Board Member	Ken Riley/N8UO (586) 751-4949
Past President	Chuck Perushek/N8ZA (586) 557-4983

COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison	Bill/N8SA
Awards Manager	Bob/N8ZY (586) 978-1682
Door Prizes	-OPEN-
Editor	Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
Field Day Chair	Bill/N8SA, Steve/N8XO & Ray/N8UY
Health & Welfare	Rob/KD8ENP (248) 816-2222
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Mailers/Sorters	Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
Net Manager	Bob/N8ZY (586) 978-1682
Photographer	Wes/KD8DHS
Program Director	Alec/NF8X (586) 873-8841
Public Relations Officer	Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
Refreshments	Walt/WB8E; & Alec/NF8X
Repeater Trustee	Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Swap Director	Larry, N8NIC (586) 864-4563
Technical Director	Jim/W1IK (586) 771-4135
Technicians	KA8D; W8IC; WA8GQL; W8RO; AD8S; N8SA; W1SKU; N8ZI
VE Testing	Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Webmaster	Alec/NF8X (586) 873-8841

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

Jim/WY8I	Joe/K8OEF*	Alec/NF8X*
Phil/W8IC	Joe/N8OZ*	Chuck/N8ZA*
Jim/W1IK	Floyd/W8RO	Tom/N8ZI*

PROGRAMMERS

Dennis/W8DFG	Jim/W1IK	Brad/N8VI
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The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

With Neil's statistics (below) not much room to write—but that's ok because all I wanted to say this month was: "Happy Holidays" and don't forget, I also say, "Merry Christmas."

73 for now.

V73NS Total Contacts 46000. Out of band operators (USA) 0.5%, Japanese stations 23%, USA stations 31%, QSL Requests 20%, CW QSO's 100%, 40 Meter operation 15%, 20 Meter operation 50%, 15 Meter operation, 12% Grossly off freq (not zero beat) ~15%, DXCC's. I chased ~10 DXCC's worked 235 QRO operations >100w 70% QRP operations 5% Highest QSO hourly rate 81 Split Freqs (1-2kc) 25% Sessions I get asked to QSY 33%, Operation with CW filter ON 60%, Operation with headphones ON 100%, Most worked station - JA7EDZ 84. Pepsi's consumed: 1,200. Sked requests honored: 0. Distance to nearest (real) bathroom: 800' Distance to nearest (island) bathroom: 8'. Code speed in Jan 2003 (comfortable): 18WPM. Code speed today: 45WPM. Loves: Any good fist and polite op's. Hates: Cluster

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 Monday 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 VE Testing

Testing will be the THIRD Monday of the month from September thru June. Joe, N8OZ, is the Contact VE. Pre-registration is encouraged. Test fee is \$14.00 cash (exact change only). Examinees need to bring Xerox copies of current license and un-expired CSCE's, if any. There is no copy machine at the test site. Official starting time is 7:00 PM. Walk-ins are welcomed. Test site is at the Mt. Clemens Elks Club (179 S. Main St. in Mt. Clemens). Other VE test sessions can be arranged—contact the Contact VE for details.

Care and Feeding of SLAB* Batteries

by Bill Chesney, N8SA

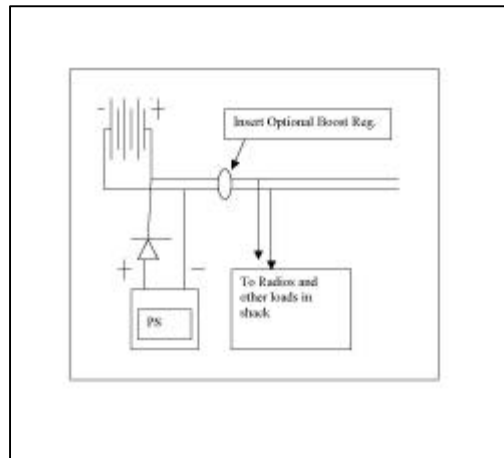
*(Sealed Lead Acid Batteries)

THESE TYPES OF batteries are ideal for ham radio applications where portable operation is desired or where the battery will be in an inhabited area such as living area, i.e., your shack. They are a true lead acid battery but the acid has been treated with a gel substance which thickens the electrolyte to a paste. This gel is very special and proprietary to each manufacturer. It is designed to provide maximum contact to plates with acid, absorb free hydrogen presented during charge and recombine that hydrogen into the paste safely without venting the battery enclosure. It is this property which makes it safe to have in your home or shack. **CAR BATTERIES ARE NOT SAFE** in a home environment and indeed can cause your home insurance to be nullified.

These batteries prefer to be 'float charged', that is, a constant, highly regulated and filtered voltage applied to the cells 24/7. This EXCLUDES any type of battery charger. Lacking this, they should be topped off with a float charge once per month. Once each year they need

an "Equalize Charge" for 72 to 100 hours to equalize out the differences in cell voltages. This voltage is about 5% above the float voltage. Manufacturers specify this charge level and/or recommend against it on some special application batteries. These do not vary widely and lacking specifics the 5% figure is safe for all. For our purposes we will concentrate on the types typically used by hams. These will all be 12-volt batteries. For other types just use the voltage per cell. A typical 12-volt gel cell will float at 13.8 vdc, therefore the voltage per cell is 2.3 vdc since a 12-volt battery has 6 cells. Equalize charge for this battery is then 14.49, or 14.5 rounded to nearest tenth. (Close enough)

I feel every ham shack should have battery back up and these cells are ideal to do that. A couple of precautions are in order though. It is desirable to have the battery connected across the power supply for your shack 24/7. (See diagram below for connections.)



Notice the diode between the Power Supply (PS) and the DC bus. This is extremely important. It must exceed the current rating of the power supply and it protects the power supply from back feed when PS goes down or is turned off. This back feed can destroy the power supply. Adjust Power supply so DC bus maintains 13.8vdc with everything connected. The diode will produce about .5 to .7 vdc drop so adjust power supply output to compensate. If you maintain these batteries as I have outlined above you can expect at least 10 years of faithful service.

If you really want the ultimate in back up power add an N8XJK Battery Booster in between the battery/PS and the DC bus. It is an efficient DC-DC Boost regulator that maintains 13.8vdc on radios while allowing battery to sink as low as 10 volts. It is available from **TG Electronics**. A similar knockoff from MFJ is available but is not anywhere as dependable, and costs as much or more.

Life Membership

Chuck:

I wanted to thank you for your phone call last evening, and your efforts to have me designated as a life member of USECA. I really appreciate the fact the executive board chose to act upon your suggestion. I know when I tell people I am a USECA member, they always have good things to say about the club.

I first became interested in ham radio through my father who had a ham station in the early 1920s. I don't know his call letters or if he even had any, as regulations back then are not what they are now. He would often tell me about the contacts he made and the home brew equipment he used. His family was supportive—even after the fire was brought under control. I guess something he put together, didn't work quite the way he planned.

I joined USECA right after I received my license, and I got my license because a couple of hams took some of their time to teach a class. I'm not much of a technical person, and the on and off switch are about my limit, but they instilled enough knowledge so I could pass the code and written tests, and with the assistance of other members who were always there to help, I got on the air as a novice.

When I joined, USECA was being organized with each of us paying the start up fee along with our dues, so we could set up a repeater antenna in one of the member's back yard. From then on, through the efforts of the members and the executive boards they have elected, the club has progressed to what it is today and I am very proud to be a member. Swap Meets and Field Days bring back nice memories. Our founders and charter members who are no longer with us would be pleased they way things have turned out.

Since my retirement in '83, I now spend my summers in the Upper Peninsula which prevents me from attending some activities, but I do participate in the Oakland County Siren Tests, and I did assist in writing an article for the bulletin several years ago about the club's history. I have also located some paperwork, which may be of interest to our historian.

Thanks again for the life membership.

Sincerely,

Dick, KA8BDG

—Received and submitted by Chuck, N8ZA

I was browsing the ARRL website and found the 2008 Field Day results. Please pass my congratulations to everyone involved in USECA's 14 place Overall and 2nd overall in the Battery class. Well done!

I was looking at a CD of the ARRL's National Contest Journal and came across a list of Field Day class records thru 2006. Here is a list of the club's records. Pretty amazing for just a bunch of battery operated hams!

73. Jerry, N8KLX

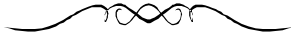
Class	Callsign	Year	Contacts	Power	# of Participants	Score
11AB	K8UO	2004	1363	5	114	12850
13AB	K8UO	2006	1633	5	126	16050
16AB	K8UO	2001	2111	5	153	19015
19AB	K8UO	1998	2233	5	177	18650
20AB	K8UO	1999	2527	5	176	20920
28AB	K8UO	2002	2193	5	173	20595

USECA Net Points										
CALL	NAME	VHF	HF	TOTAL	CALL	NAME	VHF	HF	TOTAL	
N8ZA	CHUCK	96	488	584	WB8FUI	PHIL	21	0	21	
N8ZY	BOB	27	367	394	KV8Z	CHRIS	20	0	20	
W8NIC	LARRY	64	258	322	N5WCS	MIKE	14	6	20	
N8YBY	LEONARD	28	203	231	N8ZZE	JOHN	14	6	20	
KD8CFU	DAVE	43	145	188	K8RFP	RON	18	2	20	
W1IK	JIM	54	100	154	W8EDX	ED	3	16	19	
N8EB	KEITH	64	90	154	W8WTH	RICHARD	19	0	19	
W8OMC	KEN	6	139	145	N8QOQ	TOM	19	0	19	
AK8S	ALAN	32	112	144	KD8JDC	RYAN	2	16	18	
KD8CXJ	ED	87	32	119	AC8AK	GENE	2	16	18	
W8SOX	LARRY	34	72	106	W8BHF	BOB	16	0	16	
W8AOQ	STEVE	0	86	86	KC8CPT	DON	16	0	16	
N8ZI	TOM	37	48	85	N8KC	KEN	5	10	15	
K8RDJ	RAY	19	58	77	KD8GVO	PHIL	15	0	15	
N8UJ	CHUCK	29	46	75	NC8ED	ED	0	14	14	
KD8GZE	TOM	71	4	75	K8QLM	JANICE	14	0	14	
N8AE	CARL	7	64	71	W1NB	SCOTT	0	12	12	
WY8M	ARPAD	14	56	70	K7SDF	DON	10	0	10	
N8ZBA	DAN	39	31	70	K8PJQ	RICH	10	0	10	
N8ESM	PAT	4	64	68	N8HTV	JOHN	9	0	9	
KD8HTU	MARTY	40	28	68	KC8WXF	JIM	6	2	8	
KD8HMK	PHIL	41	22	63	AA8OZ	PAUL	8	0	8	
WB8E	WALT	43	18	61	KC8UHK	RANDY	0	8	8	
KW8Z	KEN	45	16	61	N8OZ	JOE	5	2	7	
KD8HIZ	ANDY	31	26	57	KC8THE	BOB	7	0	7	
KI8JN	PHIL	1	56	57	W8KZW	JEFF	7	0	7	
N8UO	KEN	17	38	55	N8COQ	KEN	1	6	7	
N8CR	DENNIS	42	12	54	KD8AAW	JIM	7	0	7	
KA2IBE	JOHN	27	26	53	W1SKU	FRED	1	6	7	
KC8NQA	MIKE	3	48	51	KD8CLC	ED	0	6	6	
W8AJA	WAYNE	0	48	48	W8VO	CLEM	2	4	6	
NF8X	ALEC	5	40	45	N8KLX	JERRY	0	6	6	
KG4JTC	DAVE	32	12	44	K8JEH	JIM	4	2	6	
KD8ENP	ROB	23	20	43	KC8SYO	BOB	6	0	6	
AA8GK	PETE	37	6	43	KD8HSQ	TONY	6	0	6	
W8DFG	DENNIS	25	16	41	K8MEM	MARK	0	6	6	
KC8REX	BERNARD	10	26	36	KD8HXJ	ERIK	6	0	6	
K8DXX	BILL	2	32	34	KD8HSM	JUNE	5	0	5	
W8RIT	DAVE	3	30	33	WB8YJJ	BILL	0	4	4	
KC8ZRY	RANDY	10	22	32	WA8BIJ	VINCE	0	4	4	
WB8F	DON	2	28	30	N8FGB	RICH	0	4	4	
WY8I	JIM	15	14	29	KC8VJC	RAY	0	4	4	
W8TRC	TOM	29	0	29	W8CO	GEORGE	0	4	4	
KD8IGM	BEAU	0	28	28	N8OSD	DAN	0	4	4	
KD8CIA	JEFF	4	24	28	N8NTA	DAVE	0	4	4	
KC8LUM	MIKE	1	26	27	KA8LGI	DARRELL	2	2	4	
KD8DHS	WES	22	2	24	K8JRE	JOE	4	0	4	
N8KA	JOE	24	0	24	VE3TTF	ALLEN	0	4	4	
WB8OAF	BILL	23	0	23						
N8ODY	STEVE	1	22	23						
N8UY	RAY	20	2	22						
KF8XO	JEFF	0	22	22						
							Submitted by Bob, N8ZY			

Meeting Minutes—From Page 1

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Joe and 2nd by Dennis, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary.

**General Meeting — November 10, 2008****In attendance:**

Tom, N8ZI	President
Alec, NF8X	Vice-President
Ann, KT8F	Recording Secretary
Dennis, W8DFG	Treasurer
Joe, N8OZ	Membership Secretary
Walt, WB8E	Board Member
Ray, K8RDJ	Board Member
Ken, N8UO	Board Member
Chuck, N8ZA	Past President

*Absent

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

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

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

Minutes: correction to last month's minutes: Larry, W8NIC was listed incorrectly as Field Day Chairman, should have been Swap Chairman. Motion made to accept the corrected minutes as printed in the Express made by Jim, WY8I, and 2nd by Mike, N5WCS, motion carried.

Treasurer's report provided by Dennis, W8DFG. Motion to approve made by Rob, KD8ENP, and 2nd by Tom, KD8GZE , motion carried.

Membership: Joe, N8OZ – 155 members currently.

Webmaster: Alec, NF8X – web site working fine – working on moving to a new, stable server.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – no report.

Technical report: Jim, W1IK – our microphone is broke! Will be making a visit this week to the North Site to trouble shoot it, as the site has been down for a week or so. Needs to repair the portable PA system and some work also needs to be done at the main site.

ARRL Liaison: Bill, N8SA – dues can be taken through the club and we can make money on these dues. Info available on the web page or check with Bill.

Field day: Dennis had some info – we came in 14th overall in the country, and 2nd in the QRP class.

Swap: Larry, W8NIC – thanked the club for all the help provided to make it another successful swap. 77 of 79 tables were sold.

Other clubs: Mike, N5WCS – announced the L'anse Creuse swap on 12/7/08. 8 AM – noon. Talk-in: 147.08 repeater.

Health and Welfare: Rob, KD8ENP – no news.

Old Business:

Christmas party – Ann reported on the menu. Dennis and Ann are now collecting for the party – \$17.00 per person. Cut-off date will be the general meeting on December 8.

Tom, N8ZI reported on the ISS program held at Armada Middle School for the kids on 10/24/08. The kids really enjoyed communicating with an astronaut in orbit. Thanks to all who participated to make this event so successful.

New Business:

Alec has new club badges available, see him next month.

We have another radio, a Kenwood TM-D 710 A to raffle off, at \$10.00 a ticket.

We badly need to replace our field day tent and this raffle will help to defray the cost. Dennis, W8DFG requested that people take some tickets to sell if they can, to help push the raffle. The raffle will be held when all the tickets are sold.

Winter Field Day: Larry, W8SOX informed us that it is to be held January 24 and 25, at Camp Ozanam, near Port Sanilac. Bring a pass-a-dish. Contact Larry for more info.

Chuck, N8ZA thanked everyone for helping out at the swap and other events.

Thanks to Walt, WB8E, Larry, W8SOX and crew for providing tonight's eat-before-you-meet dinner.

Chuck informed the members that Dick Mason, KA8BDG (a charter member of USECA) has been made a lifetime member by vote of the board of directors. . See article elsewhere in this issue.

47 members and visitors were present.

Nominations for 2009: Chuck, N8ZA accepted nominations for the election to be held in December.

President: Alec, NF8X; Bill, N8SA

Vice-President: Rob, KD8ENP

Secretary: Ann, KT8F

Treasurer: Dennis, W8DFG

Membership Secretary: Joe, N8OZ

Board Members:

Ken, N8UO; Ray, K8RDJ; Jim, WY8I; Tom, KD8GZE; Chuck, N8ZA; Larry, W8NIC; Larry, W8SOX; Ed, KD8CXJ; Larry, WB8SJD.

Nominations will be reopened prior to the election in December.

Motion to adjourn made by Alec, NF8X, seconded by Joe, N8OZ at 9:20 PM, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary



USECA APPLICATION



Rev. 6/08

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

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

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

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

Annual Membership Dues: Regular: \$20 — Family: \$30 — Mail Printed Newsletter, ADD \$10.00

New Member applications must be mailed to P.O. Box address below.

Please make check payable to: **USECA** — Address: **P.O. Box 46331, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046**

All mailed-in applications to the P.O. Box must include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

(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/Tech Sup.	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
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
SAT	11:45 pm	Hoot Owl	147.180

VHF PL'S — 100 Hz

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

WWW.USECAARC.COM

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
TUE	8:00 pm	USECA/80 Meter Phone LSB	3.830
WED	7:00 pm	USECA/6 Meter Phone USB	50.140
THU	7:30 pm	LCARC/10 Meter Phone USB	28.435
THU	9:00 pm	USECA/15 Meter CW	21.140
FRI	10:00 pm	USECA/80 Meter CW	3.570
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	KD8CXJ	W1IK
2	N8ZA	N8EB
3	KW8Z	N8ZI
4	WB8E	-OPEN-
5*	KT8F	-OPEN-

*If applicable

**Traders/Tech Support

Updated 12/07

NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement or contact Keith, N8EB (586) 777-6751—Don't wait!

USECA

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL



*Happy Holiday
Season To All!*

DECEMBER 2008

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
DEC	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting—Elections
DEC	13	6:30 pm	USECA 21st Annual Christmas Party
DEC	15	7:00 pm	VE Test Session

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