



# USECA EXPRESS



*Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club*

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC. Volume 16, Number 2, February 2000

## Last Call For Y2K Dues!

*Ken, N8KC*

**H**AVE YOU FORGOTTEN to renew your membership in USECA? *You're running out of time!* Although dues are payable at any time of the calendar year, paying late means you won't be included in USECA's annual roster, you won't receive the award-winning *Express*, and ultimately may exclude you from having a voice in club decisions and elections or holding club office. Renewals, regardless of when paid, are ineligible for pro-rated dues. *Only* new members, joining for the first time, and old members rejoining after several years' absence, can take advantage of pro-rated dues. *Your Y2k dues were officially due on December 31st . . . Get your dues in at the coming meeting or mail 'em in NOW!* Be a proud member of the Greatest Ham Club in the Detroit Metropolitan area, bar none!

## Field Day 2000

*Jerry, N8KLX*

**I**T'S COLD AND SNOWY outside, what are we doing talking about Field Day? We're planning, that's what!

What is Field Day? Field Day is a competitive demonstration of emergency preparedness. In other words, IT'S A CONTEST! Start with an empty field, set up as many radio stations as you can, then from 1800Z Saturday June 24th to 1800Z Sunday June 25th, make as many valid contacts as you can with other stations around North America. Then pack up everything and leave the field as you found it. Weather, storms, hail, wind, heat,

cold, whatever comes, the contest continues.

USECA has been competing in Field Day for quite a few years now. For the better part of the last of the last 10 years, we've consistently placed in the top 10 overall. Our Field Day has been one of, if not the largest, entry for the past few years. To run such a large operation takes a lot of planning.

I will be holding a planning meeting January 29th, 2000. The meeting will be at the Salvation Army Corp. building in Mt. Clemens. I'd like to see as many of last year's station chairs there as

possible. Everyone interested in Field Day is welcome. We'll be discussing what entry class and power we'll be using this year. There are some new bonus point categories that we'll need to cover. We'll talk about last year, what worked, what didn't, what can be made better. We'll need people for a safety committee, help in the kitchen, station operators, loggers, runners, help of all kinds.

So, if you're interested in Field Day, don't miss this meeting. And in the meantime, THINK FIELD DAY!

**Field Day Meeting—Saturday, January 29th**

## The Way I See It

*Ken, N8KC*

**W**ITH THE FCC's recent announcement on license restructuring, there has come the usual wailing and gnashing of teeth from many in the ranks of the Amateur community. As usual, we've once again managed divide ourselves as Amateurs over something we had no control over. As evidenced in many of the Internet newsgroups I frequent, and

on our own repeater, it's painfully obvious that many hams are not at all happy about the present restructuring situation.

I remember well, at the introduction of the No-code license, the dire predictions of the end of Amateur Radio. There was concern that hordes of "CB types" would overrun the hobby, that the "no-coders" would turn VHF into another 11

meter fiasco. Well—it hasn't happened, nor did it result in much more than an initial flurry of new licensees. The number of licensed Amateurs now grows at approximately the same pace as before the introduction of no-code licensing and the numbers of higher class licensees continue to decline.

*—Continued on Page 8*

*Next Meeting — February 8*

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 Mark Milby/W8IR, (810) 293-3603  
 Jerry Radcliffe/N8KLX, (810) 558-7729



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Doug/K8DK	Mark/W8IR	Floyd/W8RO
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		Gulliver/WA8VIJ

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Mark/W8IR	Doug/N8KND	Bill/N8SA

### VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS

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

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Clarence Ringo/W8HQO	John Pizzuti/WB8NHT	

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
N8FDN c	G. Manquardt h	KA8VYV h
N8FND f c	WD8MFV f c	WA8VZZ c SK
J. Haubner c	WB8NHT f c	

The Editor is:

## Still Going

*Joe, K8OEF*



The date has been determined for Pre-Field Day—this event will take place on May 13, 2000.

As things stand now, the March issue of the *Express* will be one week later than normal. This is due to a conflict of schedules and timing of events. But the good news is, I'm still planning on including this year's roster in the March issue as has been done in the past. But . . . if your dues are not paid, you'll be, "left on the dock!"

Speaking of the roster, please (repeat, please), inform our membership secretary of any changes that have taken place with your call sign, address, phone number, etc. The roster will contain the last information YOU submitted to our club.

73 for now.

### Presentation For February

A safety coordinator from Detroit Edison will do a demonstration on how to use electricity safely.

*—Submitted by Nancy, KB8QMS*

If there is a color band on your mailing label, you need to send in your money for renewal for the year 2000. A complete roster will be in the *Express* soon and we would like to see your name in it. This helps all of us. It keeps the frustration level to a minimum and reduces a lot of stress for a lot of us. Thanks. Marianne, (N8TMJ).

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## SATERN's Looking For You

To ALL amateur radio operators and others:

SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Net) is looking for members who want to do something with their radio skills that can make a real difference. We meet once a month at the Mt. Clemens Salvation Army Corps, 55 Church St. The meetings are on the 2nd Saturday every month at 7 p.m. Membership is free at this time, but a uniform is required. Cost of uniform is about \$50.00 or less if you have some of the items already.

SATERN is the communications section of the Salvation Army's huge Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) organization. This group is all over the world and helps people in disasters from major earthquakes, hurricanes, etc. down to local fires. The EDS field organization serves food and drinks, and counseling services

to people at disaster scenes, including the police, firemen, and other disaster relief personnel, and anyone affected by the disaster, (displaced persons, etc.) The Salvation Army is a church that believes that you must treat the body and the soul of people in disasters. SATERN's part of all of this is to provide communications to support these efforts, especially early on in a disaster when normal communications are down or overloaded. We do health and welfare traffic all over the world. We help to provide logistics communications for major disaster areas where possibly there is no reliable communications (Kosovo), etc. You can help to make a difference. We will provide ongoing training to hone your skills.

So come on out and make yourself feel great about what your hobby can do for others. This is the

major reason for the existence of Amateur Radio to begin with. Sometimes we forget this basic fact while using our hobby daily. We take our repeater very much for granted.

SATERN membership is open to all licensed amateurs, but EDS membership is available to anyone who wishes to help, ham and non-ham alike.

For any information you may call the Mt. Clemens Salvation Army Corps at 810-469-6712, M-F, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and ask for Captain Bill Heaver, KB8QMP or talk to any SATERN member on the USECA repeater.

73 es CUL,  
Bill Chesney, N8SA

## Amateur Radio Restructuring FAQs

1. Will anyone lose any Amateur Radio operating privileges after April 15, 2000?

No! All current license classes and privileges will remain the same, and all licensees will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely. (The sole exception is for those who obtained a Technician license or exam credit prior to March 21, 1987--see question 4, below.) The primary difference is that the FCC will stop issuing new Novice and Advanced class licenses after April 15, 2000. Beyond that, current Technician and Technician Plus licensees will be lumped into a single Technician licensee FCC database. When renewed, current Technician Plus licenses will be stamped simply "Technician." Technicians who have passed Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code examination, will enjoy current Tech Plus HF privileges, but the burden of proof of having passed Element 1 (5 WPM or any higher Morse code element) will be

on the licensee. The current "no-code" Technician license will continue to be available after the new rules go into effect, however. It will continue to offer the present VHF/UHF privileges.

2. I currently hold a Tech Plus license. Can I take the current General class written examination (Element 3B) right now, then apply for an upgrade to General after April 15, 2000? I'm a little confused on this point.

Yes. The FCC has told the League that current Tech Plus licensees holding a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3B on April 15, 2000, may apply for a General class upgrade. The present Element 3B examination has 30 questions; the new Element 3 test will have 35, so the advantage to test before April 15, 2000, is slight. CSCE holders must attend a Volunteer Examiner session, complete Form 605, attach a valid

CSCE, and pay the required application fee (\$6.65 for the ARRL-VEC), if the VEC you use charges a fee. To be valid on April 15, 2000, your CSCE will have to be dated on or after April 17, 1999. A CSCE is only good for 365 days.

3. I hold an Advanced class license. Can I take the current Amateur Extra class written examination (Element 4B) right now, then apply for an upgrade to Extra after April 15, 2000?

Yes. The FCC has told the League that current Advanced licensees holding a CSCE for Element 4B on April 15, 2000, may apply for an Amateur Extra class upgrade. See question 2, above. The advantage here is that the current Advanced licensee will face a slightly shorter 40-question examination under the current licensing regime to get a CSCE for the current Element 4B.

—Continued on Page 10

Three license classes, one code speed

## The FCC Restructures Amateur Licensing

The FCC has issued its long-awaited Report and Order on amateur licensing restructuring. The bottom line is that starting April 15, 2000, there will be three license classes—Technician, General, and Amateur Extra—and a single Morse code requirement—5 WPM.

"We believe that an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," the FCC said.

Besides drastically streamlining the Amateur Radio licensing process, the FCC said its actions would "eliminate unnecessary requirements that may discourage or limit individuals from becoming trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts."

Although no new Novice and Advanced licenses will be issued after the effective date (*April 15th*) of the Report and Order, the FCC does not plan to automatically upgrade any existing license privileges. The ARRL had proposed a one-time, across-the-board upgrading of current Novice and Tech Plus licensees to General class, but the FCC declined to adopt the idea. This means that current licensees will retain their current operating privileges, including access to various modes

and sub-bands, and will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely.

Starting April 15, 2000, individuals who qualified for the Technician class license prior to March 21, 1987, will be able to upgrade to General class by providing documentary proof to a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, paying an application fee, and completing FCC Form 605.

The FCC's decision not to automatically upgrade Novice and Tech Plus licensees means the current Novice/Tech Plus HF sub-bands will remain and not be "re-farmed" to higher class licensees as the ARRL had proposed. The FCC said it did not re-farm these sub-bands because there was "no consensus" within the amateur community as to what to do with them. The FCC decided to lump Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a single licensee database, all designated as "Technician" licensees. Those who can document having passed the 5 WPM Morse code examination will continue to have the current Tech Plus HF privileges. The FCC said it may request documentation from a licensee or VEC to verify whether a licensee has passed a telegraphy examination.

The FCC action also authorizes Advanced Class hams to prepare and administer General class examinations, and eliminates Radio

Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) station licenses. RACES will remain, however.

Under the new licensing scheme, there will be four examination elements. Element 1 will be the 5 WPM Morse code exam. Element 2 will be a 35-question Technician exam; Element 3 will be a 35-question General exam; and Element 4 will be a 50-question Amateur Extra exam. The FCC has left it in the hands of the National Conference of VECs Question Pool Committee to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions.

Elimination of the 13 and 20 WPM Morse requirements means an end to physician certification waivers for applicants claiming an inability to pass the Morse code examination due to physical handicap. (*There never were waivers for the 5 wpm exam*)

The FCC disagreed with the League's suggestion that it undertake a restructuring of operating privileges along with licensing restructuring. The Commission said it wanted to give the amateur community a chance to "reach a consensus" regarding new technologies before it tried to restructure amateur operating privileges and frequencies.

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## USECA Media Hits: A New Column for the *Express*!

Ken, N8KC

Wanna' get *your* name and call sign in the world-renowned *Express*? E-mail me (kcfamily@tir.com) with any "*Media Hits*" you may see concerning Ham Radio (*with USECA members involved*) in the local media, whether it's on TV, Radio, or in the papers. I'll compile them into a monthly article if warranted.

New Years Eve's Big Hit :

How many of you caught Bill, N8SA on TV during the Evening News on New Years Eve? Yep, there he was, tending an emergency communications station at Mt. Clemens General Hospital. I'm sure there were other hams involved, but Bill was the only one I happened to catch in my glimpse of the news.

## Amateurs vs. Pros Again!

Floyd, W8RO

I WANT TO THANK all of you that contacted me after the last couple of installments on this topic. It seems that I have been able to encourage many folks to give some thought to their operating practices. Some operators are of the opinion that our operating habits are covered under our First Amendment rights to Freedom of Speech. I do not have a problem with that, however, I draw the line when what we say or do affects the rights or safety of others. Though it may be unlikely that we will all be called upon to provide communications in a REAL emergency or disaster, we should not take our responsibility to Public Service lightly. I maintain that once we turn on our radios, we are practicing or training for the possibility we may be called upon to provide communications expertise.

The Y2K problem is a case in point. I am sure that few (if any) hams that were recently licensed realized that they may be in the position to assist with communications on New Years Eve! You just never know! The old Scout's motto of "Be Prepared" was hammered home to everybody at the end of the 20th Century!

It is our responsibility as hams to be prepared to communicate in an efficient and effective manner. There is no better way to "practice" than to operate with sound operating habits every time we use the radio! If we practice bad habits, we'll use bad habits when it counts! If we practice good habits, we don't have anything to worry about! Practice does not make perfect! PERFECT practice makes perfect!

Our communications expertise doesn't stop at good operating practice. Our communications expertise also includes our technical expertise. With good solid technical knowledge, or just good old experience, a ham may be able to set up a communications system in an emergency or be able to "fix" something in a pinch!

Rarely will a hastily set up communications system that will be used to replace existing modes operate perfectly. Experience and knowledge are also requisite to be a "professional" communicator!

The restructuring of the Amateur Radio License system is stressing more technical knowledge, while at the same time a de-emphasis of Morse requirements is occurring. Don't write off CW as a viable mode of emergency communications yet! The Michigan State Police Communications system found out on New Years Eve that CW may still be the only mode that works in tough conditions, covering large areas!

Lastly, I will answer some questions about some misconceptions with our everyday communications habits. The topic will be "signal reports."

Ordinarily signal reports are not given on FM repeaters because of nature of the system. We are listening to the repeater transmitter and not to the mobile or portable that is utilizing the repeater. When someone is heard on the repeater saying, "...you're coming in great! You're full scale here." we can assume that they are seeing the signal strength of the repeater transmitter and not the signal on the input frequency of the repeater.

Normally, if a ham is listening on the input and is giving a signal report of that signal, the report will be followed by the statement "...on the input (frequency)." That way we are giving a signal report for the individual transmitter and not the repeater transmitter.

When looking for a signal report (RF), or an audio report, ask for it by name! Don't use the phrase "radio check," as it is too ambiguous. This phrase does not appear in any Amateur Radio reference manual or book.

This term is a carry over from 11 meters and VHF Channel 16. Is someone asking, "Is my transmitter working?" or are they asking, "How

is my audio?" or are they asking "How is my signal?" or are they asking for a gift certificate to AES? Who knows?

No military, SAR, commercial, aeronautical, maritime or professional radio operators use this phrase, as it has no clear or apparent meaning.

On a related matter, let's clear up the definition of signal reports for HF work.

For voice work, signal reports are given as two numbers, standing for R-S. The first number specifies "Readability" and the second number signifies "Signal Strength". Readability goes from 1 to 5, with 1 signifying "Unreadable" and 5 signifying "Perfectly Readable". Signal Strength numbers run from 1 to 9; with 1 signifying "Faint Signals, Barely Perceptible", and 9 signifying "Extremely Strong Signals". In between, we have: 2 - Very Weak Signals, 3 - Weak Signals, 4 - Fair Signals, 5 - Fairly Good Signals, 6 - Good Signals, 7 - Moderately Strong Signals, and 8 - Strong Signals. A report of 59 means "Perfectly Readable with Extremely Strong Signals".

This is as good as it gets! You send this report to someone who sounds like they are sitting in the same room with you. If you have an S-meter, the needle would be way over to the right, when the other person is talking and the noise in the background disappears. Note that there is absolutely NO reference to an S-meter!

These reports are totally subjective to the ear and have no correlation to an S-meter! This also means that there is no such thing as "59+" or "59 +20" or "59 +30db". There is also no correlation to an S-meter reading of S6 and a report of "56" or "5 and 6". A 56 report means "Perfectly Readable with Good Signals".

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**USECA 1999 VHF Net Points As Received By January 1, 2000**

Call	Name	pts	Call	Name	pts	Call	Name	pts
KIOMN	MIKE	3	WD8IFL	DAVE	1	WD8OXX	TONY	2
W1ETE	BRENT	29	KC8IHO	COLIN	13	N8OZ	JOE	73
W1IK	JIM	141	KE8JIM	MURRAY	1	N8PC	JERRY	1
KC2BOJ	MARK	1	KC8JMK	DALE	1	N8PDP	MICHAEL	113
KA2IBE	JOHN	56	W8IMP	JOHN	2	W8PEG	PEGGY	16
VE3LTF	MARIE	38	KC8IPF	DENISE	1	N8PFR	LEONARD	2
W3KM	DON	1	W8IR	MARK	27	K8PIK	MARILYN	39
KC8ARS	HENRY	7	W8ITB	FRED	1	W88PPW	SAM	3
N8ASD	LARRY	6	KC8IWN	MAURICE	1	K8QA	MIKE	1
KC8BFP	MARK	20	KC8IZG	DAVE	18	N8QAE	ERNIE	1
WB8HF	BOB	11	KC8JZW	DALLAS	2	K8QLM	RICHARD	325
KC8BIU	TED	8	KC8JBK	CHARLIE	2	K8QMP	BILL	10
KC8BNU	JERRY	4	W8JDE	JOHN	2	K8QMS	NANCY	60
KB8BSG	CARL	7	N8JGU	MIKE	1	N8QOQ	TOM	2
AB8BT	ANDY	102	W8JFR	BILL	31	N8QVX	KEVIN	1
KC8BXD	HENRY	13	KC8JSF	JEFF	8	K8QXB	SUE	2
KA8CBZ	BILL	2	KC8JSH	DELPHINE	20	KB8QXD	RANDY	4
K8CFY	JERRY	29	KC8JTK	BILL	1	N8RAR	WAYNE	9
KC8CPT	DON	60	KW8K	STU	84	KB8RBV	MANNY	11
KC8DBG	BILL	18	N8KC	KEN	25	KB8RCB	TONY	3
KC8DDL	ANDY	1	W8KC	PHIL	39	N8RE	JOE	1
W8DFG	DENNIS	53	KC8KIO	CINDY	3	K8RFP	RON	4
KC8DIR	BRIAN	133	KC8KIR	MATTHEW	55	K8RRJ	ERIC	1
K8DXY	BILL	8	KC8KJL	BRIAN	4	W88RLI	RED	2
K8DZT	FRANK	9	KC8KJM	BOB	2	W88RNO	LEN	1
KC8DZT	TOM	4	KC8KJN	STEVE	4	W88RO	FLOYD	65
NS8E	JOHN	170	KC8LDN	RAY	10	N8RRU	GARY	4
WB8E	WALT	100	KC8LEC	LEE	2	N8RUE	EDDIE	25
N8ERV	TOM	7	W8LEE	LEE	1	N8RUH	TJ	1
KC8FRW	JOHN	29	KB8LFE	JIM	5	N8RXZ	LARRY	1
K8FT	JIM	2	KA8LGI	DARRELL	37	N8SA	BILL	17
WB8FUJ	PHIL	21	KC8LIR	SCOTT	1	N8SBU	JAMES	4
KC8FXF	MIKE	3	KC8LIJ	CRAIG	11	N8SH	BETTY	40
KC8FYD	GEORGE	3	KC8LOB	STEVE	1	N8SN	CHUCK	17
N8GCD	KEN	3	KC8LOC	TOM	14	W8SNE	BOBO	1
K8GEO	GEORGE	12	KC8LOQ	RICK	1	KB8SUL	DAVE	3
K8GER	JERRY	1	KC8LUM	MIKE	7	W8MT	BRETT	10
KB8GFE	KEN	2	KC8LVL	KEVIN	6	KB8TAS	JERRY	65
KC8GFN	DAVE	6	KC8LXM	SCOTT	5	KA8TIQ	JEFF	23
KC8GMS	PHIL	7	KC8LXN	LORIE	17	N8TKH	JOHN	1
KC8GNT	LORA	85	K8BM	TOM	8	N8TLC	BILL	1
KC8GNH	KEVIN	2	W8YM	ARPAD	14	N8TMJ	MARIANNE	14
KB8GPO	KEN	5	KC8MAT	RICHARD	1	W8TUF	DENNIS	5
W88GQL	DAN	5	KC8MBL	BILL	1	N8TLH	STEVE	1
KC8GRZ	JERRY	2	N8MCD	JIM	21	KA8TWO	HANK	6
KC8GUC	LENNY	19	KC8MMJ	KIM	6	KB8LVG	CJ	1
KC8GUE	MIKE	2	KC8MNY	DAN	3	ELMER	2	
WB8H	GORDY	4	KC8MPQ	SEAN	1	W8VJ	DAVE	182
KC8HCT	CHRIS	6	N8MQU	RICHARD	1	N8VLY	JOAN	4
N8HFW	CARSON	1	KC8MSX	BILL	12	KB8VMF	JERRY	1
K8HJ	LARRY	71	KB8MUA	ANDY	1	N8VOH	KATHY	5
K8HLJ	GEORGE	1	KC8MWV	BRUCE	40	W8VOT	DAVE	13
KC8HMG	JANICE	249	KC8NDI	JIM	4	KB8WTH	RICHARD	100
KC8HMK	VICKI	1	KC8NDO	RAY	8	N8XNM	RAY	8
KC8HMM	SAM	30	KA8NDY	DAN	5	KF8XO	JEFF	2
KB8HSR	TIM	8	W8NG	JIM	6	N8YBY	LEONARD	83
K8HW	STEVE	4	N8NOQ	BIFF	5	N8YJ	DINA	33
HC8HYS	PAT	1	N8NSV	BOB	2	KB8YYA	DREUX	27
KC8HYU	JON	165	W8NZ	BOB	2	KB8YYB	DEBBIE	17
N8HZE	KEN	12	K8OEF	JOE	3	KB8ZAW	RAY	2
KC8IAP	MARY	20	N8OEF	VAL	60	K8ZEC	JOHN	70
KC8IAQ	DAVE	170	N8OEO	JOHN	1	KB8ZEH	DICK	2
W8IC	PHIL	1	WB8OIS	LEN	2	N8Z	STEVE	6
KC8ICG	STEVE	1	N8OKW	JIM	6	N8ZZE	JOHN	5
W8IDO	DENNIS	2	KB8OLF	DAVE	1	N8ZZF	PAT	12
K8IE	SCOTT	1	N8OMP	GARY	1	KZ8ZZZ	LES	6
K8IF	ANN	53	K8OTT	JB	2	K8GUY	GARY	2

**Top 20 VHF Operators**

Call	Name	pts
1	K8QLM RICHARD	325
2	KC8HMG JANICE	249
3	WB8V DAVE	182
4	NS8E JOHN	170
5	KC8IAQ DAVE	170
6	KC8HYU JON	165
7	W1IK JIM	141
8	KC8DIR BRIAN	133
9	N8PDP MICHAEL	113
10	AB8BT ANDY	102
11	KB8WTH RICHARD	102
12	WB8E WALT	101
13	KC8GMT LORA	85
14	KW8K STU	84
15	N8YBY JOE	83
16	N8OZ JOE	71
17	K8HJ LARRY	70
18	K8ZEC JOHN	70
19	KB8TAS JERRY	65
20	W8RO FLOYD	65

**Top HF operators**

Call	Name	pts
1	K8QLM RICHARD	306
2	KB8TAS JERRY	114
3	KC8IAQ DAVE	110
4	WA8JPR BILL	106
5	KA2IBE JOHN	105
6	KC8GMT LORA	104
7	W8RO FLOYD	86
8	KC8HMG JANICE	84
9	N8KC KEN	78
10	A88DD BOB	71
11	N8MOJ MARION	58
12	WB8E WALT	54
13	AB8BT ANDY	54
14	W8IR MARK	46
15	WY8M ARPAD	38
16	W1IK JIM	36
17	K8PIK MARILYN	28
18	W8IC PHIL	26
19	WB8FUJ PHIL	24
20	K8WH DAVE	24

Database c/o KC8JSH (Delphine)  
 Software written by W8GC (Tom)

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

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

**USECA Board Meeting Minutes—January 4, 2000**

In attendance:

KB8YYB, Debbi	President
KB8QMS, Nancy	Vice-President
KG8IF, Ann	Recording Secretary
N8TMJ, Marianne	Membership Secretary
KC8JSH, Delphine	Treasurer
KC8IAQ, Dave	Board Member
W8IR, Mark	Board Member
N8KLX, Jerry	Board Member; Field Day Chairman
W8DFG, Dennis	Past President
K8CFY, Jerry	Historian
K8OEF, Joe	Express Editor
W8VB, Dave	ARRL Liaison
K8ZEC, John	Repeater Technician
KC8DIR, Brian	Net Manager



\*Absent

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

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's report was provided by Jim, N8OKW and was approved.

Membership: We have in excess of 223 members in December, 54 members have renewed for the current year.

PROGRAM: Nancy, KB8QMS announced that Jim Wades, WB8SIW will do a presentation on the new FCC licensing structure at the January meeting. Bill, N8SA; Floyd, W8RO and Dave, W8VB are assisting.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT: backup repeater now working.

EXPRESS: no report. Favorable comments made on the new print style

ARRL: Dave, W8VB will write an article for the Express on registering with the FCC and how to get information on your Amateur Radio License records.

HEALTH & WELFARE - it was reported that Chris, W8ZNT was struck by a car and was in the hospital for a month.

Y2K - 20 hams at were at MCGH for NYE - no problems encountered. Thanks to Betty, N8SIH for turning her back on the Channel 4 cameraman and providing USECA with a publicity shot.

FIELD DAY: Jerry, N8KLX - copy of the logging software sent to ARRL - should be something about it in the June issue of QST. No impact from restructuring anticipated. FD planning meeting to be held Sat. Jan. 28 at the Corp - 7:30 PM. Modes and power proposals will be discussed. Station chairs requested to attend. Discussion ensued on whether station chairs should be club members. Issue tabled at this time. Kitchen report - Dennis, W8DFG - meal tickets are being considered for those who work at the FD - donation will be requested from those who do not work. Potential menu outlined.

SWAP: Dave stated application for ARRL approval for the hamfest accepted - our swap is now listed on ARRL website. Flyer example provided.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Club Call sign - Jerry, N8KLX - downloaded a list of available call signs. He will fill out and send in the forms for a club call sign. A vanity call can be applied for after the assigned one is received.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Pre-field day - to be Sat. May 13, 2000. Ann, KG8IF is requesting a volunteer to take charge of this event.

Dennis, W8DFG stated that Walkamerica is expected to have 4 to 5K walkers but fewer sites. Plan is for a 2-day special event station with a call sign.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Manor, KG8IF, Recording Secretary

**USECA General Meeting Minutes—January 11, 2000**

KB8YYB, Debbi	President
KB8QMS, Nancy	Vice-President
KG8IF, Ann	Recording Secretary
N8TMJ, Marianne	Membership Secretary
KC8JSH, Delphine	Treasurer
KC8IAQ, Dave	Board Member
W8IR, Mark	Board Member
N8KLX, Jerry	Board Member; Field Day Chairman
W8DFG, Dennis	Past President

\*Absent

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

New members, visitors and upgrades were recognized.

The minutes were accepted as printed in the Express.

CORRESPONDENCE: a thank you letter from Mt. Clemens General Hospital regarding the Y2K support on New Year's Eve from USECA members was read to the members.

TREASURER: report was presented.

MEMBERSHIP: Marianne, N8TMJ reported: 220 members in December 1999, 100 members to date in 2000.

HEALTH AND WELFARE - Marianne, N8TMJ reported that Darwin, AA8HF - now in Florida - recently had a quadruple bypass and is now doing very well. Chris, W8ZNT, was hit by a car - is slowly healing from multiple injuries but is now out of the hospital. Delphine, KC8JSH reported that Ken, KC8HMI is currently hospitalized with chest pain.

REPEATER: John, K8ZEC reported work is continuing on the repeater, also testing on the controller - much equipment has been prepared but is not installed yet. Working on the replacement for the backup repeater. John is looking for more technical people to join the team. Next tech committee meeting Tuesday 1/18/00 at 7:30 PM.

EXPRESS: Joe, K8OEF - Express articles due the night of the General Meeting.

ARRL: Dave, W8VB - deferred to the program scheduled this evening regarding the FCC restructuring.

NET POINT MANAGER - John, KC8HYU - nothing to report.

TONIGHT'S HOSTS: Thanks to Jerry, K8CFY, Betty, N8SIH, and Don, KC8CPT.

Thanks to Don, KC8CPT for a job well done as COFFEE MAN!

PROGRAM - Nancy, KB8QMS announced that Jim Wades, WB8SIW will do a presentation tonight on the new FCC licensing structure at the January meeting. Bill, N8SA; Floyd, W8RO and Dave, W8VB are assisting.

—Continued on Page 11

## The Way I See It —From Page 1

As I see it, USECA, as club organization dependant upon retaining and gaining new members, has *only* two options...

#1: We can sulk over what the FCC has wrought, argue over what "should have been", and/or have an attitude about any new licensees and upgrades that make it after April 15th. We could treat new licensees as if they somehow didn't hold a real license and refuse to talk to them. We can blame the ARRL (*some people just gotta' have a scapegoat!*), even though they were initially caught off-guard by the FCC's proposals. (*Yeah, right!—and you think no-one else pushed for lowering standards? The ARRL's counter-proposals were pretty much brushed aside.*) We could, like a few I've heard say, "sell all our equipment and leave the hobby" (*Jeeez! how does that make sense?*). Maybe if we bad-mouth all the new licensees, telling them how *inferior* their licenses are as compared to ours, they'll just go away.

I ask you—does ANY of this sound like the USECA you and I know? It sounds *repulsive* to me!—There is *another* choice.

#2: We accept the FCC's decision as FINAL (*it essentially is, except for some very minor fine tuning*), accept any new licensees with open arms, and encourage them to come along and explore this great hobby of ours. USECA, with the introduction of the no-code license, welcomed the influx of new hams, unlike several other local clubs and repeater organizations, and has been rewarded by a steady growth in membership ever since. I believe we'll experience the same phenomenon during this next period of change in Amateur Radio if we reach out to these new licensees and share with them what USECA has to offer—camaraderie regardless of license class or what it took to earn it, a vast pool of radio expertise, and a dedication to putting FUN into radio!

If we make choice #1, our on-air QSOs will reflect bitterness and regret over the restructuring and

could drive away new licensees and upgrades who might otherwise have shown interest in USECA. On-the-air condemnation of the FCC R&O and exhortations bemoaning the imminent demise of Amateur Radio will surely risk belittling and driving away the *now-licensed* Tech, General and Advanced Class hams looking forward with relish to a long-desired upgrade and further HF privileges.

If we follow choice #2, we'll encourage those who can, to get their written exams out of the way NOW, so as to be prepared for April 15th. Anybody now an Advanced, should be crackin' the books on the Extra written. Likewise, anyone now a Tech-Plus (licensed after 3/21/87), should be getting' their General exam behind 'em now! Those who hold Certificates for these written exams along with proof of the aforementioned licenses, will be eligible for immediate upgrade at a VE session come April 15th! Techs licensed prior to 3/21/87 will be eligible for immediate upgrade to General Class, *no test required!*

At this point in time, it's really doubtful that wailing, complaining, or even counter-proposals to the FCC will have any productive effect whatsoever on the recent Report and Order. It's been over a year since the FCC first proposed major restructuring of the Amateur service. Anything that *might've* changed the FCC's final report *should've* been said a long, long, time ago (*and I would add—submitted to the FCC officially, not just talked about on-the-air or among fellow hams!*). The period for filing comments on this issue has *long* expired and those who got *involved* and wrote the FCC (with rational versus emotional arguments, for or against the well publicized, proposed changes) were the ones heard. Needless to say, the vast majority of comments leaned toward easing requirements for licensing. (You'd have known this if you'd taken the time to look over some of the comments the FCC received—they were available on the web and elsewhere).

In my humble opinion, Amateur Radio license numbers will change only slightly as a result of these new licensing changes. Sure, there'll be a flurry of General & Advanced Class licensees upgrading to Extra and certainly most Tech Plus licensees will upgrade to General (no net increase in Ham numbers)—but I fail to see how Amateur Radio will look any more attractive to those not already in the hobby. The 5 wpm CW requirement for HF privileges has not been removed (a seeming brick wall for so many no-coders) and the Tech written exam, although due to get *somewhat* easier, has been patently easy to pass as it now stands.

Maybe it's just me, but I really can't see where these changes will affect the number of Hams more than just a smidgen. In a nutshell, entry to Ham radio will become only slightly easier via the Tech license and entry to our "*hallowed ground*" of HF still requires the same minimum code requirement. I'm sorry, but I don't see how this will bring a flood of newcomers! In fact, I doubt we'll see anything *remotely* like the influx we had with the introduction of the no-code Tech ticket.

To those who are doing the complaining—let's take a quick test! Raise your hand if you earned your license the "*hard way*". (*hmmm, almost all of you raised your hands!*). Let me rephrase—how many of you had to pass a CW exam to earn your first Ham licenses? (*well, that dropped quite a few hands!*). Taking this a step further—how many of you were forced to upgrade from Novice in a year or lose your ham ticket? (*Ah, lost a few more hands there!*). How many of you had to take a CW exam where your proficiency was tested in both receiving and *sending* Morse Code? How many of you had to take your exam before an FCC examiner in Detroit without knowing what would be on the exam? (*Ohhh, only a few hands left!*).

—Continued on Page 9



**USECA Cork Board**

▶ Radio "Stuff" ◀

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

★New this month.

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

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

▶ Miscellaneous Items ◀

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

★FOR SALE

27" Admiral TV, 3yrs. Old; \$200.

Portable B&W TV 5"; \$10.

Uniden BC60XLT hand held VHF/UHF 30ch scanner; \$60.

Realistic home CD player, works; \$20.

1988 Dodge Shadow, 4dr, runs great; \$1700.

Wilson ProStaff ladies graphite golf club set, w/bag & more, like new; \$200.

Power Supply; Sorensen DCR4-10; 10 amp supply; \$25.

Power Supply; Sorensen DCR4-20; 20 amp supply; \$50.

440 Ringo Ranger II; \$20.

CB antenna 4' fiberglass; NEW; \$5.

Sony CDP591 CD player; \$25.

Xerox 6010 Memorywriter electric typewriter; \$25.

386 Computer; \$100.

Lazyboy rocker/recliner, mauve, like new, hardly used; \$175.

Contact Arpad WY8M; 810-751-3804



The Way I See It —From Page 8

I guess what I'm getting at is, Amateur Radio is changing—it's been changing all along. Modes of operation have changed, licensing has changed, and not once, but numerous times. Whether we agree with the change or not is really irrelevant, change is inevitable—but as a club, we can choose to adapt to those changes and flourish, or like the dinosaurs, fade away.



**NAME BADGES**

With The OFFICIAL USECA Logo  
Contact Debbi, KB8YYB: (810) 263-0227

**Email Directory Update**

- ★KC8DIR, Brian: kc8dir@123.net
- ★W8EDX, Ed: w8edx@arrl.net
- ★N8KLX, Jerry: n8klx@arrl.net
- ★K7VG, Clay: n8ayu@aol.com

**Unnecessary Words:**  
*"For ID"*

## FAQs—Continued from Page 3

The new Extra class Element 4 will contain 50 questions (and is expected to contain many of the present Advanced class question pool technical questions). To be valid on April 15, 2000, your CSCE will have to be dated on or after April 17, 1999. A CSCE is only good for 365 days.

4. I got my Technician license under the old system prior to March 21, 1987, and I now hold a Tech Plus license as a result. I understand that I'm now eligible to upgrade to General without having to take an additional examination. Is this correct?

Yes. The FCC has told the League that current Advanced licensees holding a CSCE for Element 4B on April 15, 2000, may apply for an Amateur Extra class upgrade. See question 2, above. The advantage here is that the current Advanced licensee will face a slightly shorter 40-question examination under the current licensing regime to get a CSCE for the current Element 4B. The new Extra class Element 4 will contain 50 questions (and is expected to contain many of the present Advanced class question pool technical questions). To be valid on April 15, 2000, your CSCE will have to be dated on or after April 17, 1999. A CSCE is only good for 365 days.

4. I got my Technician license under the old system prior to March 21, 1987, and I now hold a Tech Plus license as a result. I understand that I'm now eligible to upgrade to General without having to take an additional examination. Is this correct?

4. I got my Technician license under the old system prior to March 21, 1987, and I now hold a Tech Plus license as a result. I understand that I'm now eligible to upgrade to General without having to take an additional examination. Is this correct?

Yes. Holders of a pre-March 21, 1987, Technician class license (or a CSCE) may claim credit for a new General class license after April 15,

2000. This is because under the old system, the written examination for Technician and General class was identical; the only difference was that Technicians had to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test, while Generals had to pass a 13 WPM Morse code test. The upgrade is not automatic, however. You will have to apply through a Volunteer Examiner test session, complete Form 605, attach documentary proof of having completed the requirements for a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987, and pay an application fee, if any, to the VEC involved.

5. What do I need for "documentary proof" of having held my Technician license before March 21, 1987?

Obviously, if you have an original or a copy of your Technician license issued anytime prior to March 21, 1987, that would suffice. Other documentary evidence could include an original CSCE for Element 3 issued prior to that date; an FCC verification letter of having held a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987; a document from the FCC's contractor, ITS Inc; or possibly a Callbook listing dated prior to March 21, 1987, indicating your license class as Technician.

6. I've lost my old license and didn't keep any copies. How do I get verification from the FCC that I held a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987?

You can write the FCC, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Provide the FCC with your name, address, and current call sign as well as all details of your licensing. The FCC may be able to verify in writing that you held a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987. You also may contact ITS Inc (visit <http://www.itsdocs.com/>). For a fee, ITS will research prior licensing records and should be able to provide you with the necessary documentary proof.

7. I've got an Advanced ticket now. Someone told me that I'll

revert to General on April 15, 2000. Is this true?

Absolutely not, although this rumor has been making the rounds on the Internet and on-air discussion groups. You will continue to be an Advanced class licensee and have Advanced class privileges after April 15. Again, no one loses any privileges, and all license classes stay the same.

8. How can I find out where there's a Volunteer Examiner session so I can apply for an upgrade or take an examination element?

A session search engine is available on ARRL Web at [http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/exams\\_earch.phtml](http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/exams_earch.phtml). Also, feel free to contact local VEs or ask local clubs for information on testing sessions in your area.

9. I now hold a General class ticket. Since there won't be any more Advanced tickets issued after April 15, 2000, can't I just take the current Amateur Extra written examination (Element 4B) and use the CSCE to get my Amateur Extra when the new rules become effective?

Nice try, but, the answer is no. If you're going to take your examination before April 15, 2000, you must complete both Element 4A (instant upgrade to Advanced) and Element 4B, then take your CSCE for Element 4B to a VE session on or after April 15 to apply for your Amateur Extra ticket (this means filling out Form 605 and paying the application fee, if any, to the VEC). And yes, in this example, it means you would need to appear at two test sessions. You also could just wait until April 15 and take the single 50-question Extra class written test.

10. I've got my Advanced now and want to take Element 4B before April 15, 2000. What license manual should I study?

—Continued on Page 11

**Amateurs vs Pros —From Page 5**

Any time that the R-S signal report is used, there is NO reference to the S-meter! To properly give the R-S report, close your eyes and LISTEN to the quality of the received signal! If you want to mention an S-meter reading, do that separately from the R-S report!

For CW reports, a third number is added to the end of the R-S report to form the R-S-T report with the "T" signifying "Tone". The Tone report gives the CW operator an idea of how clean his CW note is. The num-

ber 1 signifies an "Extremely Rough Hissing Note", and the number 9 signifies the "Purest D.C. note". The numbers in between signify how much (if any) ripple or AC is present on the CW note. In CW, the best signal is "599". This equates to a signal that is "Perfectly Readable with Extremely Strong Signal and the Purest D.C. note".

It doesn't get any better than that for CW! Sometimes you'll hear me give an RST of 429 on the 15 meter CW net. The reason for the S of 2 is that the noise is so low on 15M that I can copy a signal that is

not moving the S-meter at all! The R-S-T report can also contain a suffix of "C", "K" or "X". "C" stands for chirp, "K" stands for clicks and "X" stands for frequency stability characteristic of crystal control.

Let's continue to evaluate our own operating habits in an effort to become more efficient and effective communicators. This way, we'll all be more of an asset to the emergency coordinators that ask for our assistance!

73.

**FAQs—Continued from Page 10**

The new question pool has not been developed yet for the post-April 15, 2000, tests. Use the current Extra Class License Manual, available from the ARRL. New study guides will be developed to reflect the new testing regime. Likewise, those wanting to take Element 3B to upgrade from Tech Plus to General should study the current General Class License Manual, available from the ARRL.

11. Can I use my valid Element 4B credit CSCE for the Extra

written examination element to upgrade before April 15, 2000?

Only if you also pass the 20 WPM Morse code examination. Otherwise, you'll have to apply after April 15, 2000, when the new rules become effective. Remember, your Element 4B CSCE must be dated on or after April 17, 1999, in order to be valid on April 15, 2000. A CSCE is only valid for 365 days.

12. I'd heard that Novices and Tech Pluses would be getting an automatic upgrade to General

when the new rules go into effect. Is this true?

Unfortunately, no. In its comments to the FCC, the ARRL had proposed that the FCC upgrade all holders of Novice and Tech Plus licenses to General class as a one-time action to permit "refarming" current Novice/Tech Plus HF subbands for higher-class licensees. The FCC did not adopt this recommendation in its Report and Order of December 30, 1999, however.

—Submitted by John, N8HTV

**General Meeting Minutes—Continued From Page 7**

WALKAMERICA - Dennis, W8DFG stated that there is a reduction in sites from 10 last year to 3 this year. However, many more walkers are expected this year. Date: April 30, 2000, 6:30 AM. Looking for volunteers to assist in communications. Dreux, KB8YYA, Nancy, KB8QMS and Marilyn, K8PIK are assisting in running the event. Special event station - Jerry, N8KLX reported that he has 10, 20 & 40 meter stations covered, looking for 15 meters. Call sign to be W8A. Will operate till 2 PM or so.

PRE-FIELD DAY - Ann, KG8IF announced that the date is May 13, 2000, at Stony Creek Metro Park. Requested a volunteer to chair this event - Ray, KC8NDO accepted.

FIELD DAY - Jerry, N8KLX - announced the first planning meeting will be Saturday, January 29 at the Corp - will have a presentation. Previous chairs may retain their stations. Station chairs and other interested parties are strongly encouraged to

attend. A copy of the logging software was sent to ARRL - look for write up in the June issue of QST. Kitchen report - Dennis, W8DFG - will have an organizational meeting in February, date TBA.

SWAP: Dave, KC8IAQ brought flyers for this year's swap.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dave, KC8IAQ - provided a reminder to not discuss the autopatch codes, etc. on the air.

Debbie, KC8YYB stated we need a volunteer to oversee the club annual summer picnic.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Manor, KG8IF, Recording Secretary

## So, You Want To See Me Naked?

By Linda A. Prussen-Razzano

These days, when I retire in the evening, I am afforded the comfort of assured security. I rest peacefully, my thoughts centered firmly on my many blessings, the butterfly tickles indicating the life growing inside of me, and my renewed confidence that America can weather most political storms, only to emerge stronger than before.

What brings me such peace of mind? Is it the strapping giant I call my husband, nestled in the bed alongside of me? To a degree, yes. Is it my comfortable home, located in a quiet neighborhood? To a degree, yes. Is it the security alarm that monitors my home continuously, warning against unwanted intrusion? To a degree, yes. Ultimately, the source of my peaceful rest is the 12 Gauge 28" Accu-Choke shotgun and case of 3" shells under my bed.

I did not always know this level of serenity.

In 1989, I decided to return to college to finish my Bachelors degree. I accepted a position for which many have rightly earned spots in Heaven; I became a Burger King night manager. While far from prestigious, it allowed me to work almost 40 hours a week and still attended college full-time. In January of 1990, just four weeks into my new position, I experienced a typical Murphy's Law evening what could go wrong did go wrong. When I left the safe confines of my store, it was very late, very dark, and I was alone. Well, not really.

Two armed robbers were waiting for me in the parking lot. At gunpoint, I was forced back into the store, forced to turn off the alarm, forced to open the safe, and then forced to the floor of my restaurant. The memory of the gun barrel shoved into the back of my head, as I lay on the floor face down, remains firmly impressed on my mind.

Thankfully, the robbers did not fulfill their threat to blow my brains out; I had complied without question, survival instantly becoming the sole focus of my being.

In the still sickening moments that followed their departure, I pressed every panic button in the store, retrieved what was left of the smashed phone, plugged it in, and desperately called the police. My words were tearfully jumbled, but recognizable, until I saw headlights swinging into the parking lot. In

nanoseconds, my tone leapt from controlled distress to hysterical, rising two full octaves to a begging soprano as I screamed, "I have to hide! I have to hide! They're coming back in to kill me!" Thankfully, it was the police; they had come to my "rescue."

In the grueling hours that followed, filled with police tape, fingerprint dust, and endless questions about the evening's events, I was asked not once, not twice, but four separate times if the robbers had harmed me in any way. The last person to approach me with this question was a female detective, who gently escorted me to a private corner at the back to the store. "No," I assured her, "I would tell you if they did. But I must ask, you are the fourth person to ask me about this. Why?"

I later learned that out of 14 stores, I was the only manager that was not assaulted. These robbers were not just robbers; they had raped, shot, and beaten other managers and employees. Apparently, at some point when they were "casing" my store, I must have done or said something that made them see me as a "human being."

In short, I was lucky. Very lucky. Extremely lucky. Unbelievably lucky. I was back at my job within 48 hours. I was convinced that if I didn't return, I would have allowed the robbers to take more from me than a few lousy dollars.

I didn't think of the robbery until four years later, when my husband began a new job that required him to work the graveyard shift. Suddenly, I was alone in the evenings, with no alarm to our apartment and no warning of an entry save my hearing. I became acquainted with insomnia and sleep deprivation, jumping at every noise, fearful at every turn. When a rapist claimed his fourth victim in our area, I lived on caffeine, cigarettes, and an average of 3 hours sleep a night unless my husband was home.

On one evening in particular, my body simply gave out. I crashed upon returning home from work, only to be awoken at 5:30 a.m. by the shifting of my bed. I snapped out of sleep and lurched up from under the covers, recognizing that someone was climbing into the hazy darkness of the bed alongside of me. My full-throated scream woke my neighbors, one of whom banged on the ceiling of my apartment while the other called the

police. Thankfully, it was my husband, considerably trying not to wake me as he came home from work.

Why am I telling you this? I want you to understand that I didn't purchase my weapon in a knee-jerk reaction to my "victimization." It took me several years to see guns as trusted friends, not hated foes. I had to move past emotion to a place where logic prevails; I had to stop thinking like a victim, and start thinking like a survivor.

Moreover, I want to make people understand that anti-gun laws do no deter crime. This statement is the absolute truth for two reasons:

1. Criminals, by definition, do not obey the law.

2. Guns do not have a life of their own; they do not fly about randomly committing crimes. Guns are simply tools; they require human beings to operate.

If the anti-crime activists want to seriously address the issue, they should call for the arming and proper training of all law-abiding citizens. If they seriously want to level the "playing field," they should make sure law-abiding citizens are equipped with the right gear to survive in the "game."

The fact that some anti-gun groups call for the wholesale confiscation and elimination of guns tells me one thing they want to see me naked in my desperation, clutching a telephone, begging for the police to come before the intruder violates my home, my body, my child. To secure their peace of mind, they would leave me exposed to certain victim-hood, rather than allowing me to empower myself and defend my God-given right to live and to protect my family.

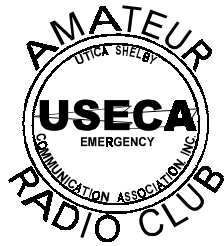
I have just four words for folks like that: Over My Dead Body. I will not play the victim for you. I will not trust the future of my security to things like "luck". I will not be a statistic, just so you can feel as if you have "done something."

My days of being a helpless female are over.

—Submitted by Arpad, WY8M

**Pots have *Handles*.**  
**Newspapers have *Personals*.**  
**People have *Names*.**

# USECA APPLICATION



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

Rev. 12/98

## FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

CALL \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 MEMBER: ARRL  YES  NO  
 RACES  YES  NO

CALL \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 MEMBER: ARRL  YES  NO  
 RACES  YES  NO

Annual Membership Dues Regular: \$20 — Family: \$30 — Auto-Patch: \$35 (One Time Fee) + Annual Dues  
 Applications can be given to the Membership Secretary at monthly meeting or mailed.  
 Please make check payable to: **USECA** — Address: **P.O. Box 1222, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-1222**  
 (Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.)

## 2-Meter LANs

### Local Area Nets

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

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

[WWW.USECA.ORG](http://WWW.USECA.ORG)

## Net Ops Schedules

### 2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM	MON. 9 PM**	TUES. 8 PM	FRI. MIDNIGHT
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
1	KG8IF	N8OEF	K8QLM	KC8IAQ
2	W8IR	W1IK	-Meeting-	KC8MWW
3	K8QLM	N8OEF	KC8IAP	KC8DIR
4	AB8BT	W1IK	W8IR	KC8HYU
5*	WB8E	N8OEF	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

\*\*Slow Code

### HF NETS

	THURS. 9 PM	FRI. 10 PM	FRI. 11 PM
WEEK	21.140 MHz/CW	21.140 MHz/CW	28.425 MHz/USB
1	K8QLM	-OPEN-	KC8IAP
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 (810) 749-4561—Don't wait!

**USECA Hot Line: (810) 268-6730**

# USECA

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P.O. Box 1222 • Sterling Heights, MI 48311-1222

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**BULK RATE**  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WARREN, MI  
PERMIT NO. 289

# WARNING!

THIS WILL BE  
YOUR LAST EXPRESS!

*(If your dues are not paid)*

## FEBRUARY 2000

### "The Happenin' Club"

### Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
FEB	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAR	14	7:30 pm	General Meeting
APR	11	7:30 pm	General Meeting
APR	30	6:30 am	WalkAmerica
MAY	9	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	13	9:00 am	9th Annual Pre-Field Day
MAY	19-21		Dayton Hamvention 2000
MAY	26-29		Campout—Lakeport
JUN	TBA		Trash-For-Cash
JUN	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting—Fox Hunt
JUN	23-25		Campout—p/o Field Day
JUN	24-25		Field Day 2000
JUL	21-23		Campout—Xmas in July—Algonac
JL/AG	28-6		Campout—St. Ignace & Tawas
AUG	TBA		Annual Club Picnic
SEP	1-4		Campout—Tawas or Harrisville
SEP	4		Michigan Peach Festival Parade
SEP	22-24		Campout—Western—Algonac
OCT	27-29		Campout—Halloween—Algonac

### Swaps

Day	Month	Date	Where
SUN	FEB	20	LIVONIA
SUN	MAR	19	TOLEDO, OH
SUN	APR	16	SEMARA
F,S,S	MAY	19-21	Dayton 2000*
SUN	JUN	18	MONROE
<b>SUN</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>USECA</b>

\*ARRL National Convention

Source: QRV Bulletin, QST & N8ARO

### 6-METER NETS

	WED 7 PM	WED 8 PM
WEEK	50.150 MHz/USB	51.740 MHz/FM
1	NS8E	NS8E
2	KC8IAQ	K8QLM
3	N8YBY	KC8HYU
4	W8VB	W8VB
5*	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

*\*If applicable*

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