



# USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 20, Number 2, February 2004

## A Year On The Atoll

Neil, V73NS/WD8CRT

WELL HERE IT IS, one year later, and I am still on the atoll in the middle of the Pacific. I have learned a lot of things in this year, a year that has flown past very quickly. One of the first things to adjust to is the isolation. It makes you question your sanity for being here when you first arrive. Roi-Namur, where I live and work, has a population of about 200 and is 50 miles north of the big island of Kwajalein, also called Kwaj. Kwaj is twice our land mass, has the long runway for commercial and supply flights, the seaport, hospital and a population of just over 2,000. We call it "downtown". There is no Radio Shack, no mall, no 24-hour Dairy Mart, no Home Depot, no Starbucks, no traffic lights, no nothing. The little store we do have keeps odd hours, the post office keeps odd hours. Imagine a cross road town in the wilderness of the UP, and then scale that down! If you thought Isle Royal was remote, think again! The nearest trauma center is 2,140 miles away in Honolulu and getting a flight to there can take 24 to 72 hours.

The store here sells frozen foods, snacks, beer, wine, pop, cleaning products, magazines, fishing tackle, over the counter drug store items etc. They also (for some reason) sell things like black socks, no white...just black.

—Continued on Page 7

## Field Day 2004

Jerry, N8KLX

JANUARY, 2004. As I sit here in front of my computer, it's snowing outside and the temperature is about 28 degrees...It's about as far, weather wise, from Field Day as you can get, but it is the right time to start thinking about it.

It's time to start the planning for the 2004 edition of the USECA Field day.

We have a lot of new members in the club and some of you might be wondering what Field Day is all about. Is it a contest? Is it a campout? Is it a 3 day long picnic? Why do we do what we do when we do it?

Well, it all of that and more. It's the American Radio Relay League's big public demonstration of what Amateur Radio can do. It's billed as an "**Emergency Preparedness Exercise.**" What does that mean in plain English? It means that groups of Hams from all over the United States, Canada, South and Central America gather on the 4th full weekend in June and set up radio stations in places where there were no radio stations and operate, under simulated emergency conditions, for 24 hours, making contacts with as many other stations as possible. At the end of the 24 hours, they tear it all down and start making preparations for next year.

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## Road Trip Anyone?

Ken, N8KC

A FEW YEARS AGO, a group of USECAns made a one-day pilgrimage to the Hammond Museum of Radio in Guelph, Ontario, about 40 miles this side of Toronto. The museum, founded and funded by Fred Hammond (VE3HC, now a silent key) of Hammond Industries, is filled with the fruits of his *lifelong* passion for collecting and restoring radio and electronics gear. Fred was one of the "fathers" of Canadian Amateur radio and his collection reflects this with a heavy emphasis on rare and vintage Amateur equipment. During our last visit, we were surprised to find the vast majority of his collection, Amateur or otherwise, to be in *operable* condition. In fact, if I remember right, there were at *least* five different operable *vintage* Amateur stations on-site completely hooked up and ready to glow (minus a few minutes of warm-up for the tubes).

—Continued on Page 11

Dues Due!

Are  
Yours  
Paid?



Spaghetti Social at the Elks Club  
Thursday, February 26, 2004

Next Meeting — February 10

# CLUB DIRECTORY

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim Wickstrom/W11K (586) 771-4135
Vice President	Dave Cunningham/KC8IAQ, (586) 791-2720
Recording Secretary	Ann Manor/KT8F, (586) 751-3893
Treasurer	Delphine Wrona/KC8JSH, (586) 791-4669
Membership Secretary	Mary Cunningham/KC8IAP, (586) 791-2720
Past President	Nancy Carr/KB8QMS, (586) 749-3383

## ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Madison/WN1B (248) 628-4756  
 Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126  
 Jerry Radcliffe/N8KLX (586) 731-9041



## COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison	Phil/W8IC (586) 751-3893
Awards Manager	Tom/KC8LOC (248) 542-3340
Door Prizes	Dina/N8YJI (586) 825-6182
Editor	Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
Field Day Chair	
Health & Welfare	Charlene Gracey (586) 777-2954
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Mails/Sorters	Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
Net Manager	Brian/KC8DIR (586) 749-4561
Photographer	Richard/K8QLM (586) 731-4475
Program Director	Dave/KC8IAQ, (586) 791-2720
Public Relations Officer	Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
Refreshments	Don/KC8CPT & Richard/KC8HMJ
Repeater Trustee	Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Swap & Shop	Scott/WN1B (248) 628-4756
Technical Director	Floyd/W8RO (248) 391-6660
Technicians	WN1B; K8FT; WA8GQL; KC8IAQ; W11K; N8KLX; AD8S; N8SA
VE Testing	Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222

## CONTROL OPERATORS (\*Phone Number Above)

Scott/WN1B*	Jim/W11K*	Floyd/W8RO*
Dennis/W8DFG*	Mark/W8IR	Dave/AD8S
Dave/KC8IAQ*	Joe/K8OEF*	
Phil/W8IC*	Nancy/KB8QMS*	

## PROGRAMMERS

Dennis/W8DFG	Dave/KC8IAQ	Mark/W8IR
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## SILENT KEYS

Len Czapiewski/K8DHH	Stuart Satrun/KW8K	Vance Dupuis/WB8QNI
Art Sheff/W8EGV	Rick Parady/KB8KLW	Dave Martin/W8VB
Joe Lucido/NU8F	John Moore/KA8KTV	Harry Young/W8VRW
Charles Smith/N8FWF	John Palmer/WD8LBH	Velma Ragon/N8YVC
Clarence Ringo/W8HQO	Joe Palson/WD8MFN	John Tomlins/KG8YX
Joe Steel/KA8IZM	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 SK
N8FDN c	G. Manquardt h	KA8VYV h
N8FNO f c	WD8MFN f c	WA8VZZ c SK
J. Haubner c	WB8NHT f c SK	

Michigan's . . .

**BEST-IN-CLASS!**

*The Editor is:*

# Still Going

*Joe, K8OEF*

Good Bye! So Long! Audios! Farewell! Hasta La Vista...Baby! We're gonna miss you! Those of you who have not paid your dues, **this is it!** This will be your last *Express!* The official "drop dead" date is the night of the February General Meeting. The very next day, all non-members will be removed from the membership roster (the 2004 roster will be printed in the March *Express*). Don't forget, many other privileges will be withdrawn; i.e., access to our "members only" web area; usage of "k8uo.com" for your email and most of all . . . the [entire] editorial staff will be saddened by your departure because without you, we have no purpose! So . . . how about it? What's the REAL reason you won't renew? I/we would sure like to know.

73 for now.



- ⊕ **Chairperson—Pre-Field Day**
- ⊕ **Chairperson—Annual Picnic**
- ⊕ **NCO's and Alternates**
- ⊕ **Membership Renewals!**

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## Antennas, Antennas, Antennas!

Steve Katz, WB2WIK/6

THEY ARE OUR transducers to the ether, and are what make our wireless equipment work.

Yet, for various reasons, many hams seem unconcerned about them.

Deed restrictions (CC&Rs) are probably a leading cause of hams having poor antennas, although plain old apathy seems at least as big a problem. *Budget* should never be the problem, since so many excellent antennas are available as used items either very cheaply or free, and of course some great designs can be homebrewed for almost nothing. And we find that often times, the ham with no antenna had enough of a budget to buy a \$1000 radio. Hmph.

This subject is too vast to address in a brief article, so I'll focus on a single, popular design: HF Vertical Antennas. Even more specifically, inexpensive HF vertical antennas which are typically base-fed, trapped or loaded designs requiring a counterpoise or image plane in order to function properly. Among all the commercial designs on the market, the Hustler 4BTV-5BTV-6BTV are likely the *best bang for the buck* products currently out there, although Butternut HF6V-HF9V, Hy-Gain 12AVQ-14AVQ-18VS and DX88, and others can be good deals, too.

The products listed, and other popular commercial models, have one thing in common: They are not ground-independent, and have no factory supplied counterpoise. They are trapped or loaded, base-fed antennas that not only work *better* with radials, they work *only* with radials.

Any antenna can make contacts. Good ones make stronger, longer-distance contacts more reliably. With a 100W transmitter and a good antenna, many of the signal reports you receive should be 'Wow, great signal - very, very strong, S9+ here.' If you don't commonly get such reports, you're definitely missing out on a lot of stuff that could be worked, but you're not going to hear it, and it's not going to hear you, either. A simple, inexpensive vertical antenna can

produce such reports, repeatedly. The difference between a vertical that does get the 'you're blowing me out of my chair' reports and one that doesn't is simple deployment.

### 50 Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong

That's a really old phrase, and I'm not even sure where it started - but it fits the situation.

If you use modern antenna modeling software, you'll see that any current-fed vertical fed at its base, which usually means it's 1/4-wavelength, or 3/4-wavelength, or an electrically loaded variant thereof, needs an excellent image plane, usually made from wire radials, in order to reduce its vertical angle of radiation and reduce ground losses.

When one installs such a vertical, say a 5BTV for example, on the ground without any radial system, it will generally demonstrate a good impedance match (to 50 Ohm coax), and nice, smooth, low curve plotting VSWR against frequency. That's a sure sign that it stinks.

In reality, this antenna should have a feed-point impedance of about 30 Ohms (VSWR = 1.7 or so), and have sharp, narrow resonance curves if you plot VSWR against frequency. If the vertical has VSWR < 2.0 across the whole 40 meter band, you've got a problem, because the antenna's incapable of that. What's making the VSWR nice and low is ground loss, which appears in series with the antenna current and directly reduces antenna efficiency (both transmitting and receiving). My 6BTV is resonant at 7150 kHz, and VSWR climbs to about 3:1 at 7000 and 7300 kHz, which is about right. That's because my installation has very little ground loss - and that's because I have radials that work.

How much difference does this really make? That's a really interesting question, and although computer modeling shows the effects of radials with regard to feed-point impedance and radiation angle, it doesn't demonstrate the real-world difference in what can be heard and worked. Simply using the antenna

with easily added or removed radials (using alligator clips to attach them) is more demonstrative.

Having a battery-powered, portable HF receiver is very cool, if you're experimenting with antennas. This is because you can bring the "rig" pretty close to the antenna, and instantly assess whether a change you've made is for the better, or not. I sometimes use my little Ten-Tec SCOUT for this, but any short-wave receiver with an S-meter and an external antenna jack works. I also have an MFJ-259B Antenna Analyzer, as do, evidently, thousands of others - almost everybody I chat with seems to have one. It's a good investment.

### Reality Check

Here's what I did, and have done many times. It's very interesting, and it yields great results:

-First, I installed a 6BTV vertical on my lawn, in the back yard, on a 4 feet long, 1-1/2 inch diameter pipe driven into the ground. That leaves about 3' of mast remaining above the ground, and is exactly what the Hustler assembly instructions recommend for a "no radial" installation. (In my opinion, Hustler makes good vertical antennas and gives lousy advice. Under no conditions should these antennas be used without radials, if you want to work DX.)

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**USECA Board Meeting Minutes—January 6, 2004**

**In attendance:**

- W11K, Jim                    President
- KC8IAQ, Dave              Vice-President
- KT8F, Ann                  Recording Secretary
- KC8IAP, Mary              Membership Secretary
- \*KC8JSH, Delphine      Treasurer
- WN1B, Scott               Board Member
- W8DFG, Dennis           Board Member
- N8KLX, Jerry              Board Member
- KB8QMS, Nancy         Past President
- \*Absent



Meeting called to order by the President at: 7:38 PM

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Jerry, N8KLX and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennis W8DFG, motion carried.

No Treasurer's report.

Membership: Mary, KC8IAP: 237 members

Webmaster: Dave, KC8IAQ has been tweaking the website. Has put some new animations in and added some new programs. Dave requests that members start using the community board – easy to share info.

Jim, W11K suggested getting a Pay Pal account. Discussion. Mary will present it to the BoD next month.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – no news.

Technical report given by Scott. Work is progressing on Ethel.

Target date – end of February to have her up and running. East site – less interference at this time, but it is still occurring. Needs some minor corrections. It is likely we are dealing with an intermod issue.

ARRL: Phil, W8IC – the ARRL is still working on the BPL issue. A basic level 1 course for emergency communications is available online.

Trustee: Dennis reported on control op status; 2 deletions, 1 addition. He posted on the community board the control op directive, recommends that the BOD review it. TDS will go out this month. Dennis made a motion that we pursue the downtown site, available on the David Stott building, for a nominal fee, pending technical committee approval. Motion carried.

Swap: Scott, WN1B gave a report on the current status. He is planning to put together a swap committee. He will be holding a meeting soon.

Health and Welfare: Richard, W8WTH is in the hospital – St. Joe's Constant Care. He would appreciate visitors. We wish him well. Contact Delphine, KC8JSH for info.

Need volunteers to run the summer picnic and Pre-field day.

Anyone interested in being considered for field day chairperson, please contact a board member.

Christmas party: Ann, KT8F provided a report on the 2003 party. She stated there would be a committee to organize the 2004 event, and that Mary, KD8IAP and Dennis, W8DFG would be on this committee.

Dave, KC8IAQ made a motion that the club partially subsidize club members' admissions to the Christmas party; and that the Christmas party be made an officially sanctioned club event. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary, KC8IAP. Discussion. Motion carried.

Net Control Op: Brian, KC8DIR stated more net control ops are required and alternate control ops are requested.

**New Business**

Dennis, W8DFG suggested that we change the post office box to Mt. Clemens. Issue to be brought before the membership.

Dennis, W8DFG stated that the spaghetti social will be February 26 at the Elk's Club. Other local clubs will be invited. Tickets will be \$7.00, \$5.00 for kids. Volunteers needed for set-up and clean-up crews.

Scott, WN1B suggested that we develop club liaisons to promote contact with other local clubs, in order to share information regarding club events, promote cooperation, and develop good will. He provided the BoD a draft of guidelines detailing the plan.

Send ideas on club meeting programs to Dave, KC8IAQ.

Jerry, N8KLX suggested that the club purchase band-pass filters for field day. Dennis made a motion that we bring this issue (due to the cost) before the membership for a vote. Seconded by Scott, WN1B. Motion carried. Jerry will provide a field day show at the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary



**USECA General Meeting Minutes—January 13, 2004**

**In attendance:**

- W11K, Jim                    President
- KC8IAQ, Dave              Vice-President
- KT8F, Ann                  Recording Secretary
- KC8IAP, Mary              Membership Secretary
- \*KC8JSH, Delphine      Treasurer
- WN1B, Scott               Board Member
- W8DFG, Dennis           Board Member
- N8KLX, Jerry              Board Member
- \*KB8QMS, Nancy         Past President
- \*Absent

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

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by KC8RRN and 2<sup>nd</sup> by N5WCS, motion carried.

No Treasurer's report.

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## USECA 2003 VHF Net Points

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total</u>
AB8BT	Andy	35
AB8JN	Pete	3
K8CFY	Jerome	9
K8DXX	William J.	24
K8EDS	William	2
K8GEO	George	20
K8PBX	Steve W.	2
K8PJQ	Rich	2
K8QLM	Richard	172
KA8LGI	Darrell	6
KA8NDY	Dan	2
KB8ULS	Roger	2
KB8YYA	Dreux B.	3
KC8CPT	Donald R.	30
KC8DBG	Bill	2
KC8DIR	Brian	2
KC8EDK	Brian	3
KC8HMG	Janice	116
KC8HYS	Patrick	7
KC8IAP	Mary	5
KC8IAQ	David	14
KC8IDG	Kevin	2
KC8JSH	Delphine	5
KC8LOC	Tom	8
KC8NAG	Jim	6
KC8NLE	Ken	1
KC8PNL	Scott	5
KC8REX	Bernard	14
KC8RPL	Bob	32
KC8RVF	Dave	19
KC8RYX	James W.	4
KC8SQH	Steven	4
KC8TDE	Tom	13
KC8TEV	Harry	2
KC8TTQ	David E.	45
KC8UZS	Tom	3
K18HJ	Larry	17
K18JN	Phil	21
KT8F	Ann	30
KW8K	Stuart	4
KW8Z	Ken	10
N5WCS	R. Mike	8
N8COQ	Ken	22
N8HTV	John	3
N8KC	Kenneth T.	4
N8MQU	Richard W.	2
N8ODY	Steve	15
N8OZ	Joe	2
N8PDP	Michael	51
N8RAR	Wayne R.	5
N8SA	Bill	7
N8SIH	Betty	11
N8UO	Ken	19
N8XO	Steve	12
N8YBY	Leonard	103
NJ8F	James	12

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

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total</u>
VA3IDJ	Don	10
W0JBC	J.B.	9
W1IK	William J.	80
W8BHF	Bob	15
W8DFG	Dennis	43
W8EDX	Ed	6
W8IC	Phil	4
W8IR	Mark	10
W8KC	Paul R.	5
W8NG	James	3
W8RO	Floyd	16
W8SLR	Sam	5
W8SOX	Laurence	4
W8VB	David C.	7
W8WTH	Richard B.	31
WA8JPR	William	8
WB8E	Walt E.	45
WB8FUI	Phil	11
WB8OAF	William G.	10
WB8X	Lenny	3
WD8CRT	Neil	3
WG8M	Emmanuel	3
WN1B	Scott	10
WY8M	Arpad R.	7
KC8VXQ	gary	2
KC8UCH	robert	8
KG4LMU	john	2
W8HVG	renda	2
WD8IFL	Dave	6
KC4ITU	Dwight	3
N8OEV	Dave	1
WA8GPR	Bill	2
N8DMW	Jim	7
N8UWQ	Jerry	2
N8ZR	Steve	3
AA8OZ	paul	4
N8RUE	eddie	20
N8QOQ	tom	6
W8HVI	tom	3
N8ZZF	pat	7
VA3TRL	joel	2
N8WNF	bob	3
KC8WXF	jim	23
KC8USV	bill	2
W8WRB	bill	4
KC8WNH	dave	2
KC8WWE	pete	4
K8WAW	bill	5
KC8WHL	cliff	2
N6NKO	richard	2
KC8VVN	tom	9
KB8MUY	george	3
KC6VCB	mike	3
W8TRC	tom	15
K8HDI	doug	3
WA8ZLQ	bob	3
KC8SBV	ed	2
KC8IKW	joe	2
KC8YNM	dennis	16
VE3MPH	john	2

### Top 25 HF Operators

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total</u>
K8QLM	Richard	172
KC8HMG	Janice	116
N8YBY	Leonard	103
W1IK	William	80
N8PDP	Michael	51
WB8E	Walt E.	45
KC8TTQ	David E	45
W8DFG	Dennis	43
AB8BT	Andy	35
KC8RPL	Bob	32
W8WTH	Richard	31
KT8F	Ann	30
KC8CPT	Donald	30
K8DXX	William	24
KC8WXF	jim	23
N8COQ	Ken	22
K18JN	Phil	21
K8GEO	George	20
N8RUE	eddie	20
N8UO	Ken	19
KC8RVF	Dave	19
K18HJ	Larry	17
W8RO	Floyd	16
KC8YNM	dennis	16
W8BHF	Bob	15

### Top 25 VHF Operators

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total</u>
K8QLM	Richard	268
W1IK	William J.	122
WY8M	Arpad R.	90
KC8RPL	Bob	86
WN1B	Scott	74
KC8HMG	Janice	67
AB8BT	Andy	66
WA8JPR	William	50
KA2IBE	John F.	48
K18HJ	Larry	34
KC8LOC	Tom	27
K8DXX	William J.	26
N8KC	Kenneth T.	22
W8RO	Floyd	20
KC8ECB	Ken	16
WD8CRT	Neil	12
KC8PNL	Scott	10
WB8E	Walt E.	10
N8NKY	ed	4
W1SKU	fred	4
WJ8R	Bill	4
WB8FUI	Phil	4
KC8IAQ	David	2
KA8NDY	Dan	2
W8CYG	joe	2

Database courtesy of Tom KC8LOC  
Logging Software Courtesy of Jerry N8KLLX  
Thanks Jerry, Great Job!!

ATTN NCO'S LAST CHANCE TO GET  
YOUR LOGS TURNED IN!!!  
KC8LOC@K8UO.COM

## EchoLink, Your Link to the World

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

You may have heard the comment, "It's not real radio." What they are saying is the actual communication is via computers not radios. Yes that's true; the connection is through a server using a computer, however that connection can be extended to your radio using the Sysop version of the software and interfacing your base station with the computer allowing you to remotely access to your link station and connect to one of the thousands of stations on line.

### The Basics

EchoLink software allows licensed Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the Internet, using voice-over-IP (VoIP) technology. The program allows worldwide connections to be made between stations, or from computer to station, greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's communications capabilities. There are more than 112,000 registered users in 147 countries worldwide!

Please note that **you must hold a valid Amateur Radio license** in order to use EchoLink. After installing the program, you may be asked to provide proof of license if you wish to use it.

Full details on the system and downloading instructions can be found on their web site <http://www.echolink.org/> and it's FREE!

There are four types of nodes on EchoLink: *Users*, *Links*, *Repeaters*, and *Conferences*.

The *Users* node limits you to communication from your computer, but you can connect to any of the

other type nodes. The *Link* node using the *Sysop* version of the software allows the linking of your radio equipment to the computer. The *Repeater* node consists of a repeater that is linked to EchoLink so any access to the repeater also allows access to the EchoLink stations on line. Then there is the *Conference* node. This is nothing more than a round table, usually with a subject theme.

The *Link* node is useful because you needn't be seated at your computer to communicate with one of the multitude of stations on line. This should be of

A Few of The EchoLink HTML Control Codes	
*	Info announcement
#	Disconnect
∅∅	Make random connection
Node #	Connects w/ that station

special interest to the Technician class licensee. To link your base 2-meter station to the computer, you will need an interface. There are several on the market. The one I have been using is a board, which can be bought in kit form or assembled, from WB2REM. This interface incorporates a decoder allowing your system to be controlled via the HTML tones from your HT or mobile radio when away from your QTH.

### Worldwide Communication

There are EchoLink operators in virtually every country in the world waiting to talk to you. Some hams set up schedules and if you know the node number of another station and he is on line, you can connect to him by punching in the number on your tone pad.

The audio quality of these connections is out-standing! No QRM, QRN, QSB, etc.

When you are seated in front of the computer you can see the list of stations on line. They are neatly organized into divisions by continents, countries, states, node types, new connections and alarms. **Alarms** is a list of contacts you input to be notified when they come on line.

Here is a chance to talk almost anywhere in the world regardless of propagation, and because of the restriction of the participants, the contact on the other end will be a ham. Some of the people I have talked to have, because of circumstance, are no longer able to have antennas or stations set up and are very thankful to still be allowed to maintain contact with their ham friends and continue their "hamming" through EchoLink.

### Conclusion

No, I guess EchoLink is not "real radio," but it does make worldwide communication possible and to me is not much different than having to use a computer to interpret RTTY, AMTOR, and the rest of the data mode radio signals.

**A Year On The Atoll**—From Page 1

You can buy sandals if you wear a men's size 7, underwear if you wear size 48. T-shirts at least are stocked in all sizes. The saying here is, if it's not in the store...you don't need it. Shortages are common and hoarding is standard practice.

The chow hall is an active place, as we lack kitchen facilities in our BQ's (bachelor quarters). Here you can get white rice with EVERY meal. The natives like it no matter what hour it is. I think it was even served for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. Broccoli is served a lot too. If you love this stuff, you won't after a couple months. One has to think that this is hard to kill and will survive the month long trip on a cargo ship to reach us. Shortages hit the chow hall too. We went for 3 months without CO2 for the soda machine, salt shakers became empty, dairy products showed up warm and cannot be used, lettuce... what's that? Just keep telling yourself you are at the end of a very long and drawn out supply chain.

We do have a local watering hole called the Outrigger. Here is where the range rats (remote range workers) mingle. Inside is a snack bar which also keeps odd hours but makes a good pizza and offers a huge salad for \$1.50. Drinks are priced low and it's a place to gather. We have no dress code, no valet bike parking and no fancy fruit drinks with umbrellas that the tourists drink in Hawaii. It's your basic burger, booze and bull kind of bar.

We even have entertainment! We get two American Forces Network (AFN) channels (all commercials replaced with cheesy fillers) and the weather radar which are sent up from Kwaj. A few years back, the residents of Roi-Namur got together and inked an agreement to downlink MTV Asia, Australian Broadcasting Co., Discovery Travel and Discovery. We also get NHK out of Japan and some of their programming is in English. Since the buildings on Roi are connected with cable, it was easy to construct our own head-end and supply the needed modulators for these additional channels. We also have a 200 disk DVD player and get the Roi-Namur version of our own HBO, but

that channel is like a box of chocolates...you never know what you will get. They load it and start it, no TV guide, no schedule. Hey, it beats watching the stuff on AFN! We are far ahead of Kwaj in additional TV viewing and were allowed to do it because it cost the Army nothing! They have a ton of social and family functions down there...we have 200 single people and a bar, so this is healthy entertainment.

The natives are known to "borrow" anything which is not secured. If it is valuable, lock it up or keep your eye on it. Their culture doesn't call it stealing because as soon as they are done with it they will leave it where they were last using it. Bikes, which are our only personal transportation, are borrowed most often and dumped where they got off them. It rubs us the wrong way to have your bike taken since we were taught that when you borrow something, you bring it back. That doesn't happen here. The Marshallese word for Americans is ripalle (re-pelleh) which I am told translates to "white man with lots of stuff" (i.e., white man with lots of stuff you can borrow)

There are two seasons here, the Wet and the Wetter. December to May is the Wet, where it rains now and then during the day and most often we will get a light shower at night. The Wetter season is June to November and is when we get most of our rain. Since the little bit of land that is here is so small, it does nothing to influence the weather. Unless there is a tropical depression, it will be sunny, pour like crazy for a while and then the sun will come out and things return to normal pretty fast. Annual rainfall is around 120 inches. We have recorded 3-4 inches in 2-3 hours! Rainfall is welcomed here as it is our only source of freshwater. None of the islands on the atolls in the Marshall Islands have rivers or streams. Here and on Kwaj, rain is collected in catchments along side the runway and pumped to storage tanks. In a pinch, we can access ground water from lens wells. Fresh water will sit on top of salt water and can be drawn off. These were discovered by the Japanese and are still used today if our tank levels get critical. Typhoons (Pacific version of hurricanes) seldom affect us.

Tropical depressions will form to the east of us and give us some heavy storms and then later form into typhoons as they get farther west of us. Temperatures here are always the same, daytime highs around 88 and night time lows around 80, sometimes a freak cold front will visit us at night and we will dip to 75. You know you live on a tropical island when its 77 at night and you think it's chilly. The trade winds blow constantly from the northeast between 10-25 MPH. This is our air conditioning. In the early fall we enter the doldrums and the days get sticky for 3 or 4 weeks.

Living on a missile test range is a unique experience. A few times a year a missile is launched from California and we track them...which is kinda easy since they are AIMED AT US! We all go down to the beach and wait to see the re-entry which comes less than 30 minutes after lift off. They splash into the lagoon just south of Roi. It is a spectacular sight to see, and one I would only want to see during peace time. (There are photos on my website and the link follow this article) When not tracking those, we track other things whizzing around in the sky above.

—Continued on Page 8

**Next Month**

**USECA's 2004  
Membership Roster**

**A Year On The Atoll**—From Page 7

The most dangerous thing on the island is the numerous coconut palms. A six pound coconut falling 45 feet will do some damage. Even after they fall, they somehow lie in the shadows on the road at night to further attack you as you ride your bike. They launch a second line of attack by shedding a frond. These are heavy and sharp and fall across a broader area than a solo coconut. Wildlife on the island consists of geckos, hermit crabs, spiders, ants, a few birds and house flies.

The Marshallese fly though is a smart little critter. They somehow know to land on the back of your elbow or your ankles, the two places it is impossible for you to swat at them without giving them ample warning. There are a few coconut crabs here, which look like something from a sci-fi movie. They are huge and strong enough to open coconuts, which is no small task! Needless to say, they can also remove your fingers, so they are not to be fooled with. Oh, did I mention rats? They likely arrived here when the islands were being explored in the 1500's by Europeans. Since Roi-Namur is less populated than Kwaj and still has a large area of jungle, we have more rats. As a result, the residents on Roi-Namur are called Roi-Rats.

We work and we play too. There is a 9 hole / 18 tee golf course here. Try as I might, I still have a nasty slice. The lagoon offers a quiet sandy beach, fishing is top notch and scuba diving is world class here. Reef sharks, hammerhead sharks, octopus, lobster, eels, eagle and manta rays, tuna, barracuda and numerous tropical fish live here. Every time I enter the water, I am just amazed at the life that swims here. The corals are fantastic

too, as are the WWII wrecks and shell collecting.

Speaking of shells...not only do we have sea shells, we also have artillery shells! UXO's, or Un-Exploded Ordinance, are scattered everywhere here. The islands of Roi-Namur and Kwajalein saw some heavy battle action in WWII. We have all sorts of live rifle ammo scattered about and is the most common found item here. There are still many mortars, grenades and artillery rounds here as well. A couple years ago a Japanese torpedo was found on the golf course! The golfers just thought it was a pipe. While diving, we find a lot of artillery rounds that missed their mark and ended up in the water intact and fused. There is also the odd 500-pound bomb we will run across too. Needless to say, we leave all of them alone.

Air Mobility Command (AMC—which we say means Airplane Might Come) delivers fresh fruits and produce, dairy, mail and critical items to Kwaj. These flights get cancelled all the time. We long ago stopped asking why or attempting to apply any sort of logic to it. Once it lands on Kwaj, it can take a day or two to get things shipped up to us on Roi. You get used to having random mail service. If you are lucky, things take 2 weeks to come or go, sometimes longer. My shipment of QSL cards took 11 weeks to reach me! Christmas cards came 2 weeks late, and I read my QST and Express long after you forgot what you read in them, things show up I forgot I ordered.

Being DX is fun! In the first ten months I was here I logged 5,000 QSO's. This is from casual operating on my way to or from work. I am still only working CW and my code speed has gotten really, really good. Nothing will improve your code

skills like being on the receiving end of a pile up! The first month was nerve wracking, but you get used to it. If I am not in the mood to be the pile up I will spin the dial and look for DX myself. It drives some folks crazy to hear rare DX working rare DX. I only have 125 countries worked so far and still need DE and ND! We joke out here that we need a WAJ (Worked All Japan) award as they are our most dominant contacts. No one can ever qualify for this though as they are born faster than we can work them. The mist from the breaking waves on the reef is blown across the island, nothing escapes it. The older steel Huffy bikes here don't rust... they dissolve. Antennas traps short out until the next rain washes it away, small insulators arc and copper turns black. Being close to the equator, the sun takes its toll on any plastic or fiberglass parts. The constant trade winds will also wear out antenna parts in a hurry.

My job is going well and there is still a lot to learn. The two transmitters I tend are so large you have to climb stairs to access areas of them. The coax for the VHF transmitter is 9 inch diameter hardline and the waveguide for the UHF is larger than most ductwork. Everything is on a massive scale for these power levels. The tubes for the VHF look like small beer kegs, hardly like anything you would associate with a triode and the TWT's (traveling wave tube) for the UHF are 12 feet tall. All in all...I have to say life on Roi-Namur is a pleasant thing. I had better say that, I just renewed my contract and will be ordering new QSL cards soon. I hope everyone in the club is doing well and hope to see you on the bands!

Neil V73NS / WD8CRT  
[www.qsl.net/v73ns](http://www.qsl.net/v73ns)

***This is . . . The USECA Repeater System!***

***It is NOT a machine!***



**Antennas**—From Page 3

—I connect a short piece (about six feet) of coax to the feed-point, and using the MFJ-259B, plot impedance data ( $R+jX$  or  $R-jX$ ) vs. frequency across all bands, 80-40-30-20-15-10 meters (which is all this particular antenna covers).

—Then, I roll out four 32' long insulated wire radials, tying off the ends with plastic insulators and string to support them in position so they are laid out like sloping spokes of a wheel, spaced about 90 degrees apart from each other. I line the radials up so they can all be connected to the base of the antenna (aluminum mounting bracket), and install an alligator clip at the "antenna" end of each radial, so they can be quickly connected, or disconnected. I clip the radials to the antenna mounting bracket. (The radials slope gently away from the base of the antenna, towards the ground, but never actually touch the ground. This is an important note.)

—Next, I tune through the 40 meter band once again, using the MFJ-259B, and once again plotting impedance vs. frequency. Note the curve is much sharper, now, although the resonant frequency (where  $X = 0$ ) usually doesn't change much. Also, the  $R$  is now lower.

—Then, I disconnect the MFJ-259B and replace it with the HF receiver, tuned to 7335 kHz. That's a "beacon" signal, so to speak, generated by station CHU in Ottawa, Ontario, almost exactly 3000 miles from my home. It's weak during the day, and strong at night, but can almost always be heard unless there's been a huge solar flare or other incident that just wipes out the ionosphere. I tune in CHU, and note the S-meter reading.

—Next, I disconnect the radials by unclipping them from the antenna base. If I can still hear CHU, I log its signal strength. Note, often times, disconnecting the radials causes me to lose the CHU signal altogether, making this test rather dramatic. On a typical evening, around gray line when CHU starts 'pounding in' at S9+, disconnecting the radials can cause the signal strength to drop almost into the noise - a 9 S-unit change. Umm,

how many dB is that? A lot. I reconnect the radials by clipping them back on to the antenna base bracket.

—Reconnecting the MFJ-259B, I tune it to 7150 kHz and observe the indication, then walk around in a circle, making each radial 2' longer, by clipping another 2' length of wire (Radio Shack clip lead) onto the end of each one. I go back to the MFJ-259B and observe the indication. Quite a difference! Resonant frequency of the antenna has dropped from 7150 kHz to 6940 kHz, completely out of the band! Well, that's about right. This verifies that the radials are tuning the antenna, and capable of changing its resonance, and the proportion change is about correct for the radial length change. Golly, does this mean that the radials are, quite literally, *half* the antenna? You bet it does.

—I unclip the extra 2' long leads, which were an experiment only to verify that the radials were affecting resonance. Now, I roll out four insulated radials cut to 16-1/2' long each, and perform the same set of tests on 20 meters, again using the MFJ-259B, but this time using the WWV signal at 15.000 MHz as the test beacon. This is impressive, but since I only live about 850 miles from WWV, this reception test is not a good indicator of 'low angle' antenna performance: Even a very high-angle antenna will hear WWV quite well here. So, if possible, I do this test between 4:00 and 6:00pm local time during a weekday, when the ARRL CW practice and bulletins are broadcast on 14.047 MHz. The W1AW signal is strong and steady, and there for nearly two hours, so this gives me plenty of time to experiment. And, W1AW is nearly 2700 miles from me, so it's a better 'low angle' signal.

—Note the differences, once again, using the MFJ-259B and the beacon signal received, this time using 20 meters. Holy cow. W1AW is S9+30 with the radials, and only S6 without them. How could that be? Of course it can be. The radials bring down the antenna's vertical angle of radiation (and also reception) to a useful angle for W1AW's signal. That means, the angle should now be low enough for working DX, too.

Try it. It's quite a test, and if you haven't actually performed a test just like this, you're doing your vertical quite a disservice.

**Real Life**

I couldn't leave my 6BTV mounted to a pipe on the lawn, in the back yard. The radials would eventually get tripped over and mowed down. Kids, dogs and other organisms would cause the demise of the whole system in pretty short order, here. Plus, even though I don't mind the way antennas look, this installation was pretty ugly, even to me. I scanned the horizon and found a better place: The roof of the house.

My personal solution was to install an 8' tall Glen Martin Engineering 4-legged roof tower at the peak of the roof of our single-story home; although, frankly, a cheap 3' Radio Shack tripod probably would have sufficed. I used the stronger GME roof tower to provide for the future, when I might want to put something larger and heavier up there. Then, I made multi-band radials using combinations of heavy-duty 300 Ohm twin lead and other conductors, until I had two radials for 80m; four radials for 40m; two radials for 30m; four radials for 20m; and four radials for 10m. I don't have separate 15m radials because the quarter-wavelength radials for 40m seem to work well as three-quarter-wavelength radials on 15m. (I did try, with and without separate 15m radials, and even as nitpicky as I am, could hardly tell any difference.)

—Continued on Page 10

**Antennas**—From Page 9

Photo B: Close-up view of the 6BTV base connections, viewed looking up from the roof. I used the 'radial attachment point' mounting holes in the horizontal part of the 6BTV aluminum base bracket assembly, as well as additional holes in the vertical part of the same bracket. Here you can see what appears to be nine (9) terminals making radial wire connections; in reality, those nine terminals are carrying 16 total conductors.

So, my current system has 16 radials, four per band for 40-20-10m, and two per band for 80-30m. This isn't ideal, but works pretty well and doesn't look too crazy up there on the roof. (I did, at one time, have 24 radials on the same vertical. I took eight down, selectively, and now have the 'minimum' configuration that actually works.) My current radial system uses 405 feet of insulated wire. At about \$.12/foot, that's a \$48.60 investment to make a \$200 vertical antenna actually work properly. A very wise investment, indeed.

Of course, I encourage others to scrounge, and it should be possible to come up with radial wire that costs absolutely nothing!

**Alternative**

For those having sufficient real estate to effectively ground-mount such a vertical, I've found the

proper way to do this is to sink the base of the vertical nearly to earth, e.g., have the feed-point within a few inches of the ground, and use lots and lots of wire radials either laying on, or buried beneath (doesn't matter) the soil. In this situation, the radials need not be resonant, but merely need to be plentiful.

Experimenting several years ago with a very large piece of property in upstate New York, and feeding a vertical against a ground-mounted radial field, I found the first few radials did virtually nothing. The next few helped. The next few helped more. And so it went, until we reached about 64 radials. After that, adding more radials didn't have much effect. In our case, we used VSWR measurement as an indication of whether the radials were actually doing their job: After about 64 radials, adding more hardly changed the antenna feed-point impedance, indicating that we probably had enough.

Using that particular vertical, we could work global DX on 160 meters, which was the idea. Without the radial field, we couldn't hear any global DX, so it wouldn't matter if they heard us, or not.

I've found, both experimentally and also by researching others' data, that a lot of wire radials 20' long each is sufficient for amateur-band work with a ground-mounted vertical. 64 such radials would be 1280 feet of wire. I can buy a 50 lb. spool of #14 ga. copper wire for about \$100, and such a spool contains 3160' of wire. Thus, 1280' is about \$40.50 worth. Not bad.

**Summary**

I have a tower and beams, too. But the vertical is a great *go-to* antenna, for when the beam's aimed the wrong way, or for use in a 'round table' QSO. And I currently have no beams for 30-40-80 meters, so this vertical, and one or two simple wire doublets, is all I have. The vertical almost *always* outperforms any sort of doublet: G5RV, Windom, dipole—whatever—when working DX. Last

night (August 7, 2002), I worked A71MA in Qatar 'first call' on 20-meter phone, using the vertical and a barefoot TS850S. That's not 'works great,' that's getting through on the first call, in a small pileup of perhaps 3-4 dozen stations I could hear calling Mohammad. With a vertical. And 100 Watts. And, oh yes: He did give me a '59+, very strong signal' report. I know he meant it, since he gave others '56,' '57' and '58' reports, right after me.

Here is a close-up side view of the 6BTV base and some of the radial wires and attachments. I use Scotch 88 electrical tape to securely attach all the insulated radial wires to the 2-inch diameter support pipe below the antenna's base, so the mechanical strain of the wires is supported by the tape, rather than the lug terminals. The lugs and attachments last much longer this way.

(In the background, a bit of my tower can be seen—it's about 50 feet away.) Radials. They make verticals really work.

—Submitted by Dick, AF8X



**Road Trip**—From Page 1

Our last trip there put us on the road early in the morning. The drive into Canada towards Toronto via Sarnia and the Blue Water Bridge is generally easy and traffic was very light until we reached 401. Even then, with everyone constantly in touch via HF/VHF, pit stops were easy to coordinate for all the cars in our group, regardless of how strung out we were along the highway. When we reached Guelph, we stopped for lunch at a Swiss Chalet (I haven't seen one of those in the US in *years!*) before visiting the museum. Fred Hammond (whom Floyd [W8RO] had been in contact with) surprised us, by not only joining us for lunch, but also graciously picking up the tab for the entire group. Fred then escorted us to the museum where he served as our *personal* guide throughout, lavishing attention on the ladies of USECA and making the trip quite memorable for a few of the ladies who *otherwise* might have only come along to be with their husband for the day.

Fred's radio collection is by far the largest I've ever seen in one place. Besides all sorts of Amateur gear, the collection seemingly encompasses nearly every kind of ancient Broadcast receiver, early radio & TV magazines, and some *very* early TV receivers. It includes a huge collection of tubes, from early Audions and Deforest tubes to 10kW monsters. When we visited last, he had *hundreds* of them mounted in sockets and, at the flick of a switch, could light the filaments...a simply *awesome* display of "*fire-bottles*"! I doubt there is another museum that you and I could visit within a day's drive that could *possibly* compare with Fred Hammond's.

And *that's* the reason for this short article. I'm willing to do the legwork to set up another weekend visit to the Hammond Museum *if* enough of you are interested in going. If we go, it would *probably* be on a weekend in late February to late March—more than likely, a Saturday. If you are interested in going (some of us will be car-pooling, so you may be able to share the cost of the drive), contact me via [n8kc@arrl.net](mailto:n8kc@arrl.net) or [manitoumagic@aol.com](mailto:manitoumagic@aol.com). If you need a ride, it'll be *your* responsibility to arrange that with someone else planning to go. I will need at least a *few* commitments before I can finalize plans with the museum and firm up a date. Please advise me as to *how many* in your party and if you're willing to carry passengers. I need *commitments ASAP* to get this off the ground...*Don't wait!*

(12/29/03 ...I've already got seven commitments, how about you?)

**S.A.D.**

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

HAVE YOU EVER noticed how good you feel when the sun is shining? I know when you walk out into the summer sun you almost have to smile.

S.A.D. or Seasonal Affective Disorder is a malady that most of us who remain here during the winter months suffer to some extent. Science tells us sunlight is an important part of our lives and its deprivation can cause mild to serious symptoms of depression.

Symptoms of depression (excessive eating and sleeping, weight gain) during the fall or winter months are likely to be the result of S.A.D. Treatments includes spending as much time in the outdoor light as possible or exposure to specially designed light boxes.

What has this got to do with ham radio? Well maybe the reason Joe Ham is depressed isn't because Mrs. Ham denied him a new rig for Christmas, or Bill Yagi has been moping around after spending hours on end in his basement shack lit only by a dim overhead bulb.

I have experienced the effects of S.A.D. and was surprised to learn the cause. Now I try to spend as much time as possible soaking up that December to March sunlight and when indoors I try to keep the rooms brightly lit. This has helped me and like the Sparrows who stay and tough out the Michigan winters, I survive

**Field Day 2004**—From Page 1

Although it is not a "contest," we do keep score and although there are no prizes, USECA has consistently placed in the top 10 in the world.

It takes a lot of people with a lot of different skills to do Field Day. It takes radio operators, loggers, cooks, talk-in operators, runners, safety crews, photographers, contesters, people willing to offer a helping hand, people willing to learn a new skill.

At the February USECA club meeting, the program will be a presentation on Field Day. It will cover some history of the event, both nationally and from the USECA perspective. It will also present information on our past performances and, most importantly, it will serve as the first planning meeting for the 2004 USECA Field Day.

So, if you're at all interested in Field Day, plan on attending the February Club Meeting.

**Meeting Minutes**—From Page 4

Membership: Mary, KC8IAP: 237 members. Pay dues now to be included in the 2004 roster.

Webmaster: Dave, KC8IAQ: to provide presentation tonight on the USECA web page.

Technical report: Floyd, W8RO – moving ahead on getting the David Stott building for our downtown site. East site interference has lessened, but has not been eliminated. Scott, WN1B – announced that Ethel (the new repeater) is coming along well – about 85% complete at this time. Phil, W8IC requested that if you have any interference reports, please send the particulars to [grm@k8uo.com](mailto:grm@k8uo.com) for the interference committee's review.

ARRL: Phil, W8IC reported on the latest on BPL. All kinds of classes are available at the ARRL website. Announced the RACES meeting time and date.

Trustee: Dennis reported that the codes will change when Ethel is up on line. Requested that repeater users try not to quick key.

Swap: Scott, WN1B announced the date will be October 31. Looking for volunteers – especially someone to coordinate the seminars.

Health & Welfare: Walt, WB8E announced that Richard, W8WTH is in the hospital. Contact Delphine for info if you wish to visit or call.

Contact Jim, W8NG at [w8ng@hotmail.com](mailto:w8ng@hotmail.com) if you have a question on last year's t-shirts. He will not be doing the t-shirts this year. Need a volunteer to handle this job.

Tom, KC8LOC needs all net point reports from last year, please send them to him by the end of January. He will pass out the awards next month. Tom also promoted the Morse Code Instruction on CD's. Price is \$15.00 for the 2 CD set.

Ann, KT8F reported on the 2003 Christmas party and announced that this year's party will be held at the Elk's Lodge on the first Saturday in December.

Spaghetti Social: Dennis, W8DFG announced that the dinner will be held at the Elk's February 26 – the last Thursday in February. Price: \$7.00 adults, \$5.00 for kids. A portion of the proceeds will go to BPL defense.

Dennis also announced that if you bring in a shirt to the "Stitch Doctor" in Roseville, you can have the USECA emblem and your name and call sign embroidered on it for \$18.00. Contact Debbie at 586-445-1919. Address: 28335 Utica Rd. Roseville. Near Gratiot.

Need volunteers to run the Pre-field day and summer picnics.

Let Brian, KC8DIR know if you are interested in running nets. Alternates are also welcome. We need more net control ops.

If you are interested in running Field Day, let the BoD know. The BoD will decide on the position.

Jerry, N8KLX – stated 18 band pass ICE filters are seriously needed to have a successful FD. He discussed the merits of the filters. Jerry stated he will be making the request of this expenditure of the membership at the next meeting. If you already have one of these filters, the club will buy it from you.

Scott, WN1B suggested that we have hams act as club liaisons with other local area clubs in order to share info. See BoD minutes.

The business portion of the meeting was concluded at 8:45PM.

Next month's program will be on Field Day, presented by Jerry, N8KLX.

Program: presented by Dave, KC8IAQ on the USECA website.

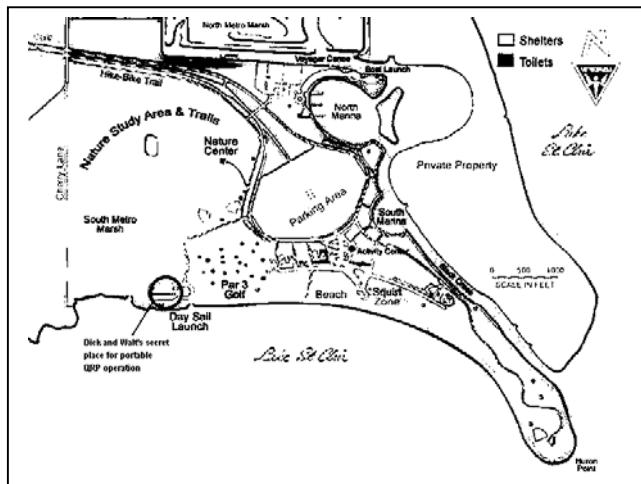
Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary



**Metro's "Secret Place"**

Dick, AF8X

Walt and I have been trying to stir up a little radio activity and I thought this map of our "secret place" would show where we usually hang out when we operate portable in case anyone would like to join us.



## USECA Cork Board

▶ Radio Items ◀

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



▶ Miscellaneous Items ◀

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

RCA 35" Color Television (charcoal cabinet). Excellent condition! Still in original shipping carton with manual. Features include: PIP, on screen display, universal remote control, Commercial Skip (GREAT feature!), closed captioning, clock with sleep timer, programmable alarm, channel labels, parental control, external speaker jacks, multiple inputs, stereo audio, etc. Asking \$450 OBO. Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769 or [w8ro@k8uo.com](mailto:w8ro@k8uo.com).

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

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

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

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

USECA Cork Board  
 On The Web

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

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

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

★FOR SALE

**YAESU VX-5R** – tri-band HT 6M 2M 440, great condition low usage, MARS/CAP modified for extended transceiver, box/manual/strap, original owner AB8MJ, more info at [www.yaesu.com](http://www.yaesu.com); asking \$200.

**ICOM IC-756 PRO-II** – Top of the line HF radio, LCD multi-color screen display with spectrum analyzer, MARS/CAP modified for general coverage transceiver, IF DSP, great condition, clean, non-smoker, more info at [www.icomamerica.com](http://www.icomamerica.com), box/manual/mic/etc.; asking \$2100.

**ICOM IC-2100H** – 2M 55W mobile rig, great condition, still current production, tone encode/decode, large green or amber LCD display, box, manual, mobile mounting bracket, mic; \$120.

**2M J-POLE** -- the U-shaped part assembled with copper tube, just add coax & connector and some sort of mounting mast (PVC, wood), \$ FREE to a new ham.

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

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

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

**CB ANTENNA** – abt 26" long, base loaded, base load is tunable with two adjustment rings, 3/8" style mount; \$5.

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Arpad, WY8M at: [wym8@arrl.net](mailto:wym8@arrl.net) or (586) 751-3804 or 147.180 MHz+ 100Hz PL.

Even though it's simple, I finally got a copy of this recipe from my mom. She has been making this for me for many years. I thought that you might put it in the *Express*. It is a good recipe that uses leftover spaghetti sauce that you might let age in the back of the refrigerator before you throw it out.

**Spaghetti Lentil Soup**  
 2-19 oz. cans Progresso Lentil soup  
 1 cup leftover spaghetti sauce with or without meat  
 4 oz. Spaghetti  
 Parmesan cheese  
 Salt

Break the spaghetti into two inch pieces and boil in two cups lightly salted water until tender Do Not Drain. Add the two cans of Progresso Lentil soup and the leftover spaghetti sauce with meat. Mix thoroughly and heat until it comes to a slow boil. Then turn off and let stand about one hour to thicken. Reheat and serve with Parmesan cheese grated on top.

If you like Parmesan cheese like I do then you will need a good handful for each bowl.

I'm looking for simple recipes. The recipes should be written down with precise measurements and preparation instructions. I'm not a good cook but I like to try new recipes. Once more the recipes have to be step by step leaving nothing out. Have them send the recipes to me at [kc8ttq@yahoo.com](mailto:kc8ttq@yahoo.com) or [kc8ttq@k8uo.com](mailto:kc8ttq@k8uo.com)

Thanks.  
 David, KC8TTQ

Spaghetti Social at the  
 Elks Club  
 Thursday, February 26



**HANDLES**



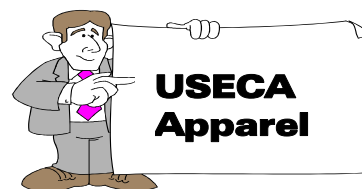
**PERSONALS**



**NAMES**

### USECA VE Testing

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



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

### Net Point System

- ✓1) HF CW NCO = 4 points, HF SSB/VHF NCO = 3 points, HF CW/SSB check-in = 2 points, VHF check-in = 1 point. HF < 30 MHz, VHF > 30 MHz. (NOTE: Check-ins should do so *personally*, proxy check-ins are legitimate *only* for members on club business. "In & Out" check-ins, though allowed, are discouraged.)
- ✓2) Awards are earned for 50 points and multiples thereof. Additional awards for the highest annual HF and VHF scores. Awards are meant to encourage **participation** and can be earned by any licensed amateur.
- ✓3) Net logs must be readable and include the **CALLS** and **NAMES** of check-ins, as well as **NCO**, **DATE**, and **MODE**.
- ✓4) NCO's: Forward net logs to the Awards Manager within 30 days; logs received later will not earn the bonus points normally awarded a NCO. Mail your logs to: Tom, KC8LOC, 26708 Osmun, Madison Heights, MI 48701; or email to kc8loc@k8uo.com.
- ✓5) If *you* notice any errors in the database, wrong or changed call signs, mis-spelled names, etc., let Tom know ASAP.

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

# USECA APPLICATION



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

Rev. 4/01 ARRL  YES  NO RACES  YES  NO

## FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

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

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

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

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

## 2-Meter LANs

### Local Area Nets

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

## On The World Wide Web

### USECA Home Page

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

## Net Ops Schedules

### 2-METER NETS

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

\*\*Traders/Helper Net

### HF NETS

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

\*If applicable

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

# USECA

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL**

PRESRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WARREN, MI  
PERMIT NO. 289

**WARNING!**  
**THIS WILL BE**  
**YOUR LAST EXPRESS!**

*(If your dues are not paid)*

**FEBRUARY 2004**

## "The Happenin' Club"

### Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
FEB	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting
FEB	26	TBA	Spaghetti Social
MAR	9	7:30 pm	General Meeting
APR	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting
APR	25		WalkAmerica
MAY	TBA		Pre-Field Day
MAY	11	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	14-16		Dayton Hamvention
JUN	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting & Fox Hunt
JUN	25-26		Field Day 2004

### Name Badges

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

### Swaps

Day	Month	Date	Where
SUN	FEB	15	Livonia
Fri-Sun	MAY	14-16	Dayton 2004
SUN	JUN	20	Monroe
SUN	OCT	31	USECA

Source: ARRL

### 6-METER NETS

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

*\*If applicable*

*NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement*