



USECA EXPRESS

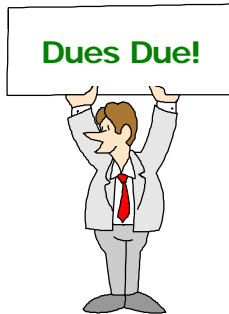


Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 23, Number 2, February 2007

**Last call
to be in
the 2007
Club
Roster!**



Dues Due!

Important Vote!

See Page 2

**New VE Schedule—
Every Monday night from
January thru April. Details
on Page 9.**

**FYBO 2007
See Page 5**

Eat B 4 U Meet

For the month of February, the menu will be, for a small nominal fee, a bottomless bowl of Vegetable Beef Soup and accessories for the cold winter weather, starting at 6:00 PM.

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

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

MORSE CODE LICENSE REQUIREMENT ABOLISHED

By now, we all know FCC has ruled to abolish Morse code testing as part of any amateur license requirement. There isn't much further to be said. With this act, FCC has taken a few additional steps. You can read about these on the ARRL web site.

Please notice the only thing abolished by FCC was the testing requirements. The use of Morse is still allowed and no CW privileges were lost by this latest Report & Order. Similarly, ARRL will continue with code practice, bulletins and CW operating activities. CW is not dead and won't die for many years, if ever.

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE ABOUT CODE TESTING

First, a question: What was the code test speed Hiram Percy Maxim (1AW, W1AW SK) passed to become a ham? Answer later.

As you may know, my prime operating mode on HF is CW. I enjoy it. It is a nice tool. For me, it helps keep my mind sharp.

Having said this, I do not feel that the FCC sold Amateur Radio down the river with its Report & Order to abolish code testing as a requirement for obtaining a ham license. As shocking as this may sound to some members . . . and nonmembers, as well . . . I've never thought Amateur Radio was all about Morse code testing or even Morse code.

Morse code has been—and will remain for quite some time—a valuable tool in radio, including Amateur Radio. And, contrary to an oft-stated popular belief, the US military has not totally abandoned Morse code. It is still found hiding in the nooks and crannies of military communication. It will continue to be a useful and well-used mode for many amateurs.

Some of you may view the demise of Morse code testing as a huge mistake and, moreover, a death blow to our great radio service. I respectfully disagree. As I mentioned in one of my newsletters a couple of years ago, discarding Morse testing is merely one more change in the history of Amateur Radio.

Just as automobile drivers no longer need to take driving exams in cars equipped with manual transmissions, incoming hams will simply not need to pass a code test. Drivers who have passed drivers license testing without touching the shift lever of a manual transmission are drivers just as much as drivers who tested using manual transmissions. So, too, hams who have passed amateur license testing without touching a telegraph key or keyer are just as much radio amateurs as amateurs who passed 20 wpm exams.

—Continued on Page 2

Next Meeting — February 13

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Chuck Perushek/N8ZA (586) 557-4983
Vice President	Brad Tarratt/N8VI (248) 506-7609
Recording Secretary	Ann Manor/KT8F (586) 751-3893
Treasurer	Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Membership Secretary	Ken Cassale/KW8Z (586) 552-8311
Board Member	Walt Gracey/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Board Member	Joe Kennedy/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Board Member	Tom Tincknell/N8ZI (586) 651-7239
Past President	Jim Wickstrom/W1IK (586) 771-4135

COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison	Bobby/N8CY (248) 879-7214
Awards Manager	Keith/N8EB (586) 777-6751
Door Prizes	—OPEN—
Editor	Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
Field Day Chair	Bill/N8SA, Steve/N8XO & Ray/KD8CXY
Health & Welfare	Walt/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Mailers/Sorters	Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
Net Manager	Keith/N8EB (586) 777-6751
Photographer	Wes/KD8DHS
Program Director	Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609
Public Relations Officer	Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
Refreshments	Walt/WB8E; & Richard/KC8HMJ
Repeater Trustee	Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Swap Director	Tom/N8ZI (586) 651-7239
Technical Director	Jim/W1IK (586) 771-4135
Technicians	W8IC; K8FT; WA8GQL; W8RO; AD8S; N8SA; W1SKU
VE Testing	Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Webmaster	Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

Dennis/W8DFG*	Joe/K8OEF*	Fred/W1SKU
Phil/W8IC	Joe/N8OZ*	Chuck/N8ZA*
Jim/W1IK*	Floyd/W8RO	

PROGRAMMERS

Dennis/W8DFG	Jim/W1IK	Brad/N8VI
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Morse Code—From Page 1

Contrary to the belief that it is Morse code that gives us qualified operators, it is the operator who makes a qualified ham. An unethical, selfish individual who becomes a ham will be an unethical, selfish ham regardless of whether he or she has passed a code exam.

Don't believe me? Look around the bands and check over FCC enforcement records. You will see that some of the worst operators and most flagrant violators of FCC rules are Advanced and Extra Class licensees. Flip the coin to its other side and you'll see that some of the best and most law abiding operators are no code Techs . . . many who joined Amateur Radio after getting their introduction to radio through CB.

As one of my most outspoken critics, Jim Wades, K8SIW recently wrote on the QMN (CW traffic net) Reflector, "We will gain nothing by creating a 'cast system' based on telegraph proficiency or any other standard. Attempts on the part of operators to belittle, isolate, or otherwise single-out individuals as 'no-code' licensees or by otherwise implying they

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

I must apologize on the Morse Code article on the front page—this articles goes from page 1 to page 2 to page 3 to page 6 and finally on page 7. (Blame this on the editor's poor planning.) Actually, the cause was the feature articles took up much of its own page and those articles could not be considered as "continued" articles.

73 for now.

Important Vote in February

A motion was placed on the floor and seconded to bring to the membership a motion to change the meeting night of USECA from the second Tuesday of the month, to the second Monday of the month. After some discussion a vote was taken and motion passed.

At the February meeting the members of USECA will vote on this motion to change the meeting night. As per our By-laws, a simple majority will be required. No absentee ballots will be mailed.

The Board, at its January meeting, voted to move its meetings to the first Monday starting with their February meeting—this of course has no bearing on the General Meeting or should influence the outcome of the February vote.

—Dennis, W8DFG

are not 'real hams' will likely be very counterproductive." Jim went on to observe, "Such an approach was taken by some misguided individuals after the implementation of the no-code Technician license and it did much harm to the Amateur Service and CW in particular."

Amen, Jim.

Just as some world cultures relegate "undesirable" people into inferior classes (e.g. the unclean); many amateurs mistakenly cast other hams into hamdom's supposed inferior classes. To some amateurs, the real sinners in the world are no code Techs and 5 wpm Generals, Advanced and Extra Class operators and such. How many times have you heard someone say, "I'm a 'real' Extra." I passed 20 wpm. Or, what about an old time Extra who might say he is a "truly real" Extra because he had to draw wiring diagrams for his written exam as well as pass 20 wpm. You've doubtlessly heard of hams who have been cast into other versions of Amateur Radio's leper colony.

—Continued on Page 3

One Weekend Ham Radio Class 24, 25 February 2007

Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association (USECA)
is proud to announce a one weekend Ham Radio Technician Class.
(This is the beginner's license)

Students will spend Saturday in class and Sunday reviewing and testing.

Class Information:

Where.....Macomb Community College, 44575 Garfield Rd., Clinton Twp.
H building 2nd floor. Park in Lot 4 NE of building

When.....Saturday 0900-1800; Sunday 0900-1300. (Testing following Review)

Cost.....\$10.00 which includes a copy of Ham University Software* reg. \$40

Pre-Requisite: Completely read Ham Radio License Manual* by ARRL. Cost is \$24.95 plus shipping from ARRL—order online.

--Pre-Registration is required to receive the software.

--Deadline is 17 February, 2007. Late registrations may not get software.

To Pre-Register, E-mail or call:

Bill Chesney, N8SA

Cell: (313) 215-4986

n8sa@arrl.net

For a map of the Center Campus: <http://www.macomb.edu/maps/center.asp>

Click on other hyperlinks in the document to get more info!

*To find more out about ham radio visit: <http://www.arrl.org/>

Morse Code—From Page 2

Many decades ago, the argument was over spark gap. Today, many hams don't know what spark gap is and couldn't care less. Back then, to be a "real" amateur, one had to use spark gap, not the new-fangled continuous wave (CW) stuff. Then we "moved on" to the "you aren't a 'real' amateur if you 'talk' over the air" debate. Using code was "the only way to go." After this it became "you aren't a 'real' amateur if you use this noise-polluting, Donald Duck-sounding SSB garbage."

There have been changes in Amateur Radio ever since it first came into existence. Change is what Amateur Radio is about. There will continue to be change for as long as it exists. Technology and science move on, even though we would be more comfortable if we could stay where things don't change. Humans don't like change. We like to stay in the comfort zone of known territory. This is where we can stay warm and fuzzy.

My message is that we all are Amateur Radio operators. This applies whether our license is a no code Tech or a 20 wpm

Extra. We all are hams. Moreover, we don't have such huge numbers of people in Amateur Radio and we haven't captivated the public imagination sufficiently with our miraculous deeds that we can afford to be snobbish over how long we each have been licensed . . . or over differences in the requirements that were in place when we took our exams . . . or over how we like to spend our time on the air. We can't afford to divide one ham from another.

We need to work together to develop a great new Amateur Radio that recaptures and surpasses its gloried past. We will never be able to accomplish this task if we don't respect each other and work together.

What do you think about all this? Let me know.

Answer to question: Hiram Percy Maxim, a principal founder of ARRL and Amateur Radio, never took a code test to obtain a ham license. In spite of this, he was a great user of Morse and a great ham.

—Continued on Page 6

USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—January 2, 2007

In attendance:

N8ZA, Chuck	President
N8VI, Brad	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KW8Z, Ken	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
WB8E, Walt	Board Member
N8OZ, Joe	Board Member
N8ZI, Tom	Board Member
*W1IK, Jim	Past President
*Absent	



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

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

Comprehensive 2006 annual treasurer's report provided by Dennis. Motion to accept made by Ann and supported by Tom, motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z: 194 members current.

Technical: Phil, W8IC – repeater is currently working well. The west site is off and is likely to remain so indefinitely. Discussed obtaining an isolator for the repeater. Checking into prices.

Trustee: Dennis W8DFG – no report. Need to add a couple of control ops.

Health and Welfare: Walt, WB8E – cards are being taken care of.

Field Day: no report.

Swap: Tom, N8ZI no report.

Website: Brad – working well.

Old Business:

Per Dennis, another piece of stored equipment may be sold.

Dennis made a motion that the BOD meeting be moved from the first Tuesday of the month to the first Monday, meeting to begin at 8 PM. Seconded by Brad, N8VI, discussion, motion carried. The change will take place with the February meeting, to be held Monday night, the 5th.

New Business:

Keith, N8EB will be the net manager and the net point manager. Keith also promoted discussion re: restarting the Friday night hoot owl net. More discussion ensued regarding the other nets, including the old Tuesday night nets. NCO's needed.

Ham University will take place on February 24 and 25 at MCCC, Center Campus. Contact Bill, N8SA.

Ed, KD8CXJ informed the BOD that he is looking for 2-3 speakers to put on a program/speech/demo at the Grubner Library in Romeo Twp, date TBD, to promote library patronage and interest in ham radio.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Dennis and 2nd by everybody, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary



General Meeting—January 9, 2007

In attendance:

N8ZA, Chuck	President
N8VI, Brad	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KW8Z, Ken	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
WB8E, Walt	Board Member
N8OZ, Joe	Board Member
N8ZI, Tom	Board Member
W1IK, Jim	Past President
*Absent	

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

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

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Phil, W8IC and 2nd by Jim, WY8I, motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Dennis, W8DFG. Motion to approve made by Chuck, KN5NN and 2nd by Bob, KZ8N, motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z: 103 members currently in the new year.

Website: Brad, N8VI – website is working. Dennis announced that we are working on getting the password for the website. Soon, the K8UO site will be gone and members will be able to use their call sign @ USECA.net for email.

Technical report: Floyd, W8RO announced that he is retiring as technical director and that Jim, W1IK is taking over at this time. Thanks to Floyd and all the others on the technical committee. Jim's report – repeater is working well. Work continues on the remote sites.

ARRL: Bobby, N8CY reported on recent events, including the recent Colorado snowstorm.

Trustee: Dennis, W8DFG – requested that when people end their transmission on a net, please sign out with your call sign to keep it legal.

Field Day - Bill, N8SA, and Steve, N8XO – reported on plans for this year's FD. May use different logging software. Several station chairs from 2006 stated their intention to continue heading up those stations in 2007.

Old Business:

Dennis, W8DFG – announced that the BOD meetings have been moved to Monday night, starting in February. Dennis made a motion that we bring a vote to the floor in February that we also move the General meeting to Monday night as well. Seconded by Steve, N8XO. Discussion. Vote take to bring this issue to the membership for a vote next month, motion carried.

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FYBO 2007!

----- CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT -----

Here are the rules for the 2007 FYBO (Freeze Your B___ Off) Contest:

FYBO Winter QRP Sprint, sponsored by the Arizona ScQRPions

Saturday, February 3, 2007, 1400Z-2400Z

QRP HF Only. CW or SSB (5W max). Near QRP calling freqs (no WARC bands).

Categories: Single Op (Home/Field) One Operator/One Station/One Call
 Multi-Single(Home/Field) Multiple Operators/One Station/One Call
 Multi-Multi (Home/Field) Multiple Stations/Multiple Operators/One Call

Work stations once PER band. Score 1 point per QSO.

Exchange RST, State/Province/DXCC Country (SPCs), first name, power out, and temperature (Fahrenheit) at OPERATOR'S POSITION. Indoor stations must report INDOOR temperature.

Example: 579 AZ Frosty 2W 40F

Multipliers:

- SPCs (each counts once PER band),
- Field Location: x4 (Field per ARRL FD definition),
- Alternative Power: x2,
- QRPP (less than 1W): x2,
- Lowest Operating Temp (at OP'S POSITION):
 - 65+ F = x1;
 - 50-64 F = x2;
 - 40-49 F = x3;
 - 30-39 F = x4;
 - 20-29 F = x5;
 - Below 20 F = x6.

For contacts with **NQ7RP**, add 10,000 points. One contact **PER mode PER band** allowed.

Final Score:

$[(QSOs \times SPCs)](x \text{ Temp Multi})(x \text{ Field})(x \text{ AltPwr})(x \text{ QRPP}) + (NQ7RP \text{ Bonus Points})$

EXAMPLE: (Thanks KI0II - Multi-Multi - FYBO 2004)

BAND	Raw QSOs	Valid QSOs	Points	SPC
40CW	6	6	6	5
40SSB	2	2	2	1
20CW	56	56	55	26
20SSB	2	2	2	1
15CW	13	13	13	9
15SSB	2	2	2	1
10SSB	2	2	2	1

Totals 83 83 82 44

Final Score = 82 QSO Pts X 44 SPC = 3608 X 5 (Temp Multi for 28F lowest temp) =
 18,040 X 4 (Field Ops) = 72,160 X2 (Alt pwr -Solar) =
 144,320 + NQ7RP bonus = 154,320 Total points

Top Entry in each category receives a certificate.

Please include your soapbox comments with your log! We'd like to hear of the trials of cold-weather operating, and any and all anecdotes are appreciated.

Logs are due 30 days after contest.

Please mark logs with category, i.e, single, multi-op, multi-multi and home or field.

**Please email ASCII-text entries to: azscqrptions at covad dot net
Hard copy, if you must, to Mike ([K7DD](#)). Be sure to INCLUDE AN EMAIL ADDRESS for confirmation that we received your logs.**

Include summary sheet, callsign, operator(s), power, location, and lowest operating Temp. Please include a mailing address for each entry so we can mail the certificates out. QRZ dot COM will be used for addresses unless you provide a better one. Logs are always fun to look at and put into databases to play with, but they are not required.

NOTE: This is a fun contest, NOT an episode of Survivor. Be aware of the temperature and the possibility of cold injury! PLEASE be careful. --Submitted by Dick, AF8X

Morse Code—From Page 3

NEW VOLUNTARY BAND PLAN ANNOUNCED

Not to be confused with the band changes made in the FCC's Report & Order, ARRL has released suggested revisions in the Voluntary Band Plan that hams generally follow. This voluntary bandplan does not supersede the FCC's recent ruling that became effective December 15.

The revisions in the Voluntary Band Plan were based largely on hundreds of suggestions and comments made in response to ARRL's request for input. I don't usually try to put tables in this newsletter, but I am going to deviate from this general rule and have placed the revisions below (I hope this through the reflector without becoming garbled):

75/80 Meters Current Band Plan New Band Plan

3.590 RTTY DX RTTY/Data DX

3.580-3.620 RTTY 3.570-3.600: RTTY/Data

3.620-3.635 Packet Delete

3.790-3.800 DX Window No change

3.845 SSTV No change

3.885 AM calling frequency No change

40 Meters Current Band Plan New Band Plan

7.040 RTTY DX RTTY/Data DX

7.080-7.100 RTTY 7.080-7.125: RTTY/Data

7.171 SSTV No change

7.290 AM calling frequency No change

15 Meters Current Band Plan New Band Plan

21.070-21.100 RTTY 21.070-21.110: RTTY/Data

21.100-21.110 Packet 21.070-21.110: RTTY/Data

21.340 SSTV No change

You can see the complete story and a graphic presentation of the new Voluntary Band Plan by going to www.arrl.org/news/stories/12/14/101/?nc=1.

COLLATERAL CHANGE

When the R&O that drops code test requirements becomes effective, current Tech licenses will receive the same CW privileges as current Novice licensees.

AUTOMATICALLY CONTROLLED NARROW BAND DATA

The new automatically controlled, narrow band digital segment on 80 M will be from 3585 kHz to 3600 kHz. This segment becomes official 30 days after the Order for Reconsideration is published in the Federal Register.

FCC apparently had its method for correcting its error of outlawing automatically controlled, narrow band data from 80 M worked out even before ARRL submitted its request to restore these operations at 3600-3635 kHz. This error had occurred in the R&O it published in mid-November and that became effective December 15. No sooner had ARRL requested restoration of this form of operating to 80 M, but the FCC published its version of a fix. The fix was simply announced much too quickly for it to have been stimulated by our petition.

FCC's fix, of course, was far from satisfactory in my opinion.

TENTATIVE TRAVEL SCHEDULE FOR K8JE

Jan. 9: 20/9 Meeting, Canfield, OH.

Jan. 13: SW OH Digital Symposium, Middletown, OH.

Jan. 18: A&F Meeting, Newington, CT.

Jan. 19-20: Board of Directors Meeting, Newington, CT.

Feb. 11: Mid-Winter Hamfest, Mansfield, OH.

Mar. 12: West Chester ARA, West Chester, OH.

Mar. 15: Bellbrook ARC Dinner Meeting, Waynesville, OH.

Mar. 18: Toledo Hamfest, Toledo.

Apr. 14: QCWA Meeting, Cleveland, OH.

Apr. 20: KY Colonel ARC, Bowling Green, KY.

Apr. 26: SUMCO ARES, Stow, OH.

May 18-20: Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH.

Jun. 17: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI.

Jul. 20-21: Board of Directors Meeting, Newington, CT.

Aug. 18-19: ARRL National Convention, Huntsville, AL.

Sep. 8: GRAHamfest, Grand Rapids, MI.

Sep. 9: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH.

Sep. 22: Great Lakes Division Convention, Cleveland, OH.

Sep. 23: Cleveland Hamfest, Cleveland, OH

—Continued on Page 7

NET POINTS -- YEAR END

CALL	NAME	VHF	CALL	NAME	HF
W11K	JIM	105	WY8M	ARPAD	155
WB8E	WALT	92	W11K	JIM	102
N8YBY	LEONARD	89	N8ZA	CHUCK	73
N8ZA	CHUCK	85	N8ZY	BOB	58
N8EB	KEITH	72	N8ESM	PAT	31
N8ZI	TOM	65	KA2IBE	JOHN	21
KW8Z	KEN	52	N8ZI	TOM	20
N8OZ	JOE	51	W8OMC	KEN	14
W8DFG	DENNIS	48	W1NB	SCOTT	12
KD8CXJ	ED	46	WB8E	WALT	10
KG4JTC	DAVE	38	N8VI	BRAD	10
W8TRC	TOM	36	N8UO	KEN	8
N8ZY	BOB	34	K8BSG	CARL	6
KC8TTQ	DAVID	31	N8COQ	KEN	6
KA2IBE	JOHN	28	WB8AHJ	STEVE	6
N8UO	KEN	27	KC8LOC	TOM	5
WB8OAF	BILL	26	KW8Z	KEN	4
N8FY/KD8CNU	KIM	24	AB8BT	ANDY	4
KC8SYO	BOB	23	KN5NN	CHUCK	4
K18JN	PHIL	23	W8IC	PHIL	4
KT8F	ANN	23	WB8H	GORDIE	4
W8SOX	LARRY	22	K3AAD	AL	4
KC8ZVA	KEN	21	K8BB	DON	4
KC8HMG	JANICE	20	N8OZ	JOE	2
KD8AAW	JIM	20	N8KC	KEN	2
KD8CXY	RAY	19	KZ8N	BOB	2
N8QOQ	TOM	19	WA8JPR	BILL	2
K8PJQ	RICH	18	WU8V	KURT	2
K8DXX	BILL	17	KW8J	LEO	2
W8BHF	BOB	17	WB8F	DON	2
WY8M	ARPAD	16	WJ8R	DAVE	2
AA8OZ	PAUL	16	AC5PO	PAUL	2
AB8BT	ANDY	15	AK3N	GARY	2
N8LI	SALIM	15	KB8QKV	ED	2
N5WCS	MIKE	14	KC8PNL	SCOTT	2
KN5NN	CHUCK	13	KC8YWB	BEN	2
K8GEO	GEORGE	13	KE4AOF	RICK	2
KD8CIA	JEFF	13	N0MSS	ROSS(D)	2
N8PDP	MIKE	13	N1QDX	PAUL(D)	2
KC8CPT	DON	12	N2ETJ	RICK	2
W8KC	PAUL	12	N4GIL	WAYNE	2
N8VI	BRAD	11	N4RTO	KIM	2
W8IC	PHIL	11	N8LOG	PAT	2
N8KC	KEN	11	N8UZE	DEE	2
KC8THE	BOB	11	N8XN	JEFF	2
N8KA	JOE	11	VA3DJL	DON	2
W8WTH	RICHARD	11	W0DJM	DAVE	2
WB8FUI	PHIL	11	W1PTX	NEIL(D)	2
N8ZZE	JOHN	9	W5SUN	BOB	2

—Submitted by Keith, N8EB

Morse Code —From Page 6

GB to 2006. It was a very eventful year. I wish you and your family all the best in 2007.

During this coming year, please think globally when thinking of Amateur Radio. I don't mean globally in terms of the world, but globally in terms of how we and our individual operating preferences fit together with so many thousands of other individuals and their operating preferences in a jigsaw puzzle. This puzzle, when put together in its total form, discloses the beautiful picture that is Amateur Radio.

73, Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
ARRL Great Lakes Division
5065 Bethany Rd.
Mason, OH 45040
E-mail: k8je@arrl.org
Tel.: 513-459-0142

**Dick, AF8X
Then and Now!**



**We should make Dick our
Assistant Executive
Associate Contributing
Editor!**

Amateur radio group practices emergency conditions

By Jeremy Carroll
C & G Staff Writer

SHELBY TOWNSHIP — Chuck Perushek doesn't care if you are a ham or not. You're invited, he said.

"Everyone is always welcome," he said. "We try to teach everyone a little something, no matter if you are ham or not."

Perushek is the newly elected president of the Utica Shelby Emergency Communication Association (USECA) amateur radio club. Also called ham radio, amateur radio users are often called "hams," and the group uses two-way radios to communicate with people all over using voice, computers or Morse code.

The group, with a membership of nearly 200, competed in the annual Field Day competition on a farm in Washington Township recently. The contest includes participants from not only the United States, but those in Central and South America as well.

"We set up in emergency-like conditions," member Ken Coughlin said. "We get our own source of power. It's a way to practice, so when the time (the emergency happens) they've already done it."

During the Field Day event, users are at it for a full 24 hours, trying to reach as many other ham radio users as possible, to practice what would happen in a real-life emergency.

The event is set up through the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), a national organization.

Coughlin said when traditional means of communications fail, often those in charge turn to ham radio operators.

"What we do often times is fill in the gaps (when there is an emergency)," he said.

One of the most recent episodes of that occurred in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, he said, where ham radio operators often helped bridge communications from police and the hospital workers.

The USECA operation is one of the largest active amateur radio groups in the state, Perushek said. He said they attract many operators because of the friendly and social aspect of the club.

"Amateur radio people are great people," he said. "People come from the whole surrounding area because we are always doing stuff."

For more information on ham radio or Field Day, visit www.useca.net or www.arrl.org.

You can reach Jeremy Carroll at jcarroll@candgnews.com

[Reprint permission has been granted.]



Photo by Patricia O'Blenes
The portable tower made by Utica-Shelby Emergency Communications Association member Larry Boggs was used during the group's annual "Field Day" event, where they set up radios and practiced emergency situations.



13650 11 Mile Road • Warren, MI 48089 • 586.498.8000

Meeting Minutes—From Page 4

Bill, N8SA stated that the 2 day Ham University (for obtaining the technician license) will be held on February 24 and 25 at MCCC, Center Campus, H building. You need to pre-register with Bill. A copy of the new Ham License Manual will be required. Bill also has software available.

New Business:

Mike, N5WCS stated that L'Anse Creuse ARC will be offering a technician class license course starting Monday, January 22, covering both theory and code, (6:45-7:25 – code, 7:30-10:00 PM, theory. The new textbook: "Ham Radio Technician License edition 1" will be available for \$24.00 the first night.

Ed, KD8CXJ informed the membership that he is looking for 2-3 speakers to put on a program/speech/demo at the Grubner Library in Romeo Twp., to promote library patronage and interest in ham radio. At this time he has 3 potential dates, TBS.

Keith, N8EB is our new Net manager and Net point manager, thank you, Keith. He is looking for new net ops for all the nets. Keith also discussed USECA Community

board. Use your call sign as your sign-in name. This will provide members only privileges. Keith announced the first place winners from last year's nets. The Friday night Hoot Owl net is set to be revived.

Keith also announced tonight's fox-hunt winners and continues to encourage participation in the monthly before-the-meeting event.

If interested in going to Dayton, it would be advisable to book your room now, as they are going fast.

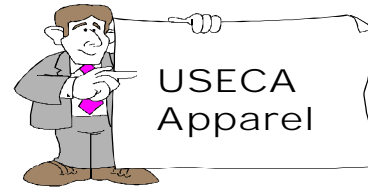
Jim, W1IK announced that the Morse Code class will not be continuing in it's current form due to the discontinuation of the code requirement at this time until further notice. Big hand of thanks to Jim for his efforts in running this class since 1997.

Business portion of the meeting concluded at 8:30 PM. The program was provided by Brad and Ray on PC board etching.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary

USECA VE Testing

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



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

Cork Board

★New or changed this month.
Please notify the editor to have item(s) added and/or removed.

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

Name Badges

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

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

USECA Cork Board

? Radio Items?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

? Miscellaneous Items?

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

COMPUTER Monitors 12 14" color computer monitors to give away. They all work and have the power cords. These would be excellent for either a backup or part of a small system. Bill kc8msx@arrl.net

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

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

★FOR SALE

Kenwood TR-2500 -- 2M HT, no battery but has cigarette lighter plug battery-pack by-pass thingie, LCD digital display, PL encode board inside, this HT not for sale but free to use for a couple months for any newly licensed ham radio operator who needs a temporary rig!

Heathkit SW7800 -- short wave receiver, AM/SSB/CW 150kHz-30MHz, base station model, built-in power supply, digital LED display and analog S-meter, front-firing built-in speaker, headphone jack, three antenna ports; \$200.

ELECRAFT K1 -- four-band version with ALL internal options, presently set up for 15-20-30-40M, digital display, menu options, XIT/RIT, amazing auto antenna tuner, noise blanker, 3-stage cw filter, built-in battery pack, built-in speaker, internal/external power switch, original box and assy manual, color-matched Palm Paddle key affixed with spare key base and extra cord, will include small padded carrying case and bnc adaptor, looks/works great; \$600 -- firm.

Philips TrenchMOS FET -- BUK9508 55A N-channel enhancement mode FET transistors, 55 Vds at 125 A (Id), TO220AB case, have 30 of them in an anti-static sleeve, eBay sells for \$2.55; Buy whole sleeve for \$40.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heathkit 1984 catalog -- good condition; \$5.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

USECA APPLICATION



Rev. 9/06

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

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

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

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

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

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



Local Area FM Nets

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

VHF PL'S — 100 Hz

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

WWW.USECA.NET

Local HF Nets

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

Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM	SUN. 8 PM**
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
1	-OPEN-	W1IK
2	KT8F	N8EB
3	-OPEN-	N8ZI
4	-OPEN-	KW8Z
5*	WB8E	-OPEN-

*If applicable

**Traders/Helpers Net

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

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

USECA

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL



FEBRUARY 2007

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
FEB	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAR	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting
APR	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	12		Pre-Field Day & Picnic
MAY	18-20		Dayton Hamvention
JUN	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting
JUN	23-24		Field Day 2007

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