



# USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC. Volume 15, Number 1, January 1999

## CLUB OFFICERS FOR '99

### Election Results: Club Officers

The election results for club officers are as follows:

- President**  
Dennis, W8DFG
- Vice President**  
Nancy, KB8QMS
- Recording Secretary**  
Debbi, KB8YYB
- Treasurer**  
Jim, N8OKW
- Membership Secretary**  
Mark, W8IR
- Board Member (3 Elected)**  
Dave, KC8IAQ  
Ann, KG8IF  
Marianne, N8TMJ

**DUES DUE!**



### Meeting Location

The February meeting will be at the Salvation Army, 55 Church Street, Mt. ...

### Net Point Awards

*Delphine, KC8JSH*

Beginning January 1, 1999, I will be your new Net Points Awards Manager.

It is a real challenge to follow in the footsteps of someone who for over 6 years has done such a tremendous job. It takes real dedication to be able to record all check-ins and to make such interesting awards and plaques.

Ken KF8RG, on behalf of those who so proudly display the awards that you have made and presented, I thank you and applaud you.

As the new Net Point Manager, I will continue with the same schedule for earning points that now exists. That is:

- HF CW Net Control Operator—4 points
- HF SSB Net Control Operator—3 points
- HF CW/SSB Check-in—2 Points
- VHF Net Control Operator—3 points
- HF Check-in—1 point

An award will be presented for the first 50 points earned and a Gold seal will be presented for each additional 50 points earned in that calendar year.

Awards are meant to get *YOU* to participate in checking in.

A word to Net Control Operators: It is important that net logs be submitted with the names and calls readable and include *YOUR* name and call, as well as the date and mode. These logs *MUST* be in my hands within 30 days or it will result in points deducted from you. Your "job" is not complete until the logs are turned in.

Logs may reach me by:

Mailing to: Delphine Wrona  
17516 Brill Dr.  
Clinton Twp., MI 48035

E-Mail: [delwro@att.net](mailto:delwro@att.net)

USECA meetings (second Tuesday of the month)

Please inform me of any errors that might (and probably will) occur and of any changes in call signs. I am looking forward to presenting *YOU* with an award.

### SATERN News

*Bill, N8SA*

#### Tech-Plus Class

SATERN of Mt. Clemens is offering a Tech-Plus class starting Saturday, January 16 at the Mt. Clemens Corps. The class will run from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with CW the first 30 minutes. All are welcome. The book used is the ARRL's "Now You're Talking." A refundable "incentive donation" of \$20.00 will be required at the beginning of class. This is not intended to be a cost. The idea is to ensure everyone continues the class. Students attending class and taking the test at the end of the class will get a full refund—even if they don't pass. The deposit of all drop-out students will be donated to SATERN. For information E-mail me at [william01@home.com](mailto:william01@home.com) or call me at: (810) 468-8345.

#### SATERN Net—Changed

We have a new net manager—Dave, KC8IZG, who will be running the net **EVERY Thursday** at 8:00 p.m. It will be an Information Net, similar to USECA's, but will specialize in Salvation Army and SATERN happenings locally, around the country, and the world — also, ARRL important news items will be covered.



Next Meeting — January 12

# CLUB DIRECTORY

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| President            | Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG, (810) 465-7126  |
| Vice President       | Nancy Carr/KB8QMS, (810) 749-3383     |
| Recording Secretary  | Debbi Cokewell/KB8YYB, (810) 263-0227 |
| Treasurer            | Jim Mickle/N8OKW, (810) 677-1667      |
| Membership Secretary | Mark Milby/W8IR, (810) 293-3603       |
| Past President       | Floyd Soo/W8RO, (248) 391-6660        |

## ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

|  |
|--|
| Dave Cunningham/KC8IAQ, (810) 791-2720 |
| Ann Manor/KG8IF, (810) 751-3893        |
| Marianne Mickle/N8TMJ, (810) 677-1667  |



## COMMITTEES

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| ARRL Liaison             | Dave/W8VB  |
| Awards Manager           | Ken/KF8RG  |
| Door Prizes              | Dina/N8YJI   |
| Editor                   | Joe/K8OEF, (810) 781-0050                              |
| Field Day Chair          | Walt/WB8E, (810) 777-2954                              |
| Health & Welfare         | Marianne/N8TMJ, (810) 677-1667                         |
| Historians               | Jerry/K8CFY & Ann/KG8IF                                |
| Mailers/Sorters          | Ann/KG8IF; Phil/W8IC; & Crew                           |
| Net Manager              | Dave/KC8IAQ, (810) 791-2720                            |
| Photographer             | Richard/K8QLM  |
| Program Director         | Nancy/KB8QMS   |
| Public Relations Officer | Ken/KF8RG  |
| Refreshments             | Marianne/N8TMJ & Don/KC8CPT                            |
| Repeater Trustee         | Chuck/WA8Z   |
| Swap & Shop              | Debbi/KB8YYB, (810) 263-0227                           |
| Technical Director       | Doug/N8KND, (810) 558-7729                             |
| Technicians              | K8FT; WA8GQL; KC8IAQ; WY8M; N8MIV; KB8PEV; N8SA; K8ZEC |
| Trash-For-Cash           | Gerald/KC8FYQ (248) 435-5112                           |

## CONTROL OPERATORS

|              |              |                 |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Dennis/W8DFG | Nancy/KB8QMS | Gulliver/WA8VIJ |
| Doug/K8DK    | Floyd/W8RO   | Chuck/WA8Z      |
| Earl/N8OEX   | Bill/N8SA    |                 |

## PROGRAMMERS

|            |           |            |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| Doug/N8KND | Bill/N8SA | Chuck/WA8Z |
|------------|-----------|------------|

## VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS

|       |       |        |        |       |        |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| AB8BT | AA8HF | W8IR   | KA8NDY | KF8RG | WY8W   |
| AA8CY | KF8HT | WA8JPR | W8NG   | W8RO  | K8WI   |
| WB8E  | KG8IE | WX3L   | N8OEF  | N8SA  | KB8WTH |
| K8EN  | W1IK  | WY8M   | KG8QT  | W8VB  | KY8X   |

## SILENT KEYS

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Len Czapiewski/K8DHH | Rick Parady/KB8KLW  |
| Art Sheff/WD8EGV     | John Moore/KA8KTV   |
| Joe Lucido/NU8F      | John Palmer/WD8LBH  |
| Charles Smith/N8FWF  | John Pizzuti/WB8NHT |
| Clarence Ringo/W8HQO | Harry Young/W8VRW   |
| Joe Steel/KA8IZM     | Velma Ragon/N8YVC   |

|                     |                       |                         |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>f</i> = Founder  | <i>c</i> = Charter    | <i>h</i> = Hon. Charter |
| N8AWV <i>h</i>      | N8HCT <i>f c</i>      | WB8OSF <i>h</i>         |
| KA8BDG <i>c</i>     | KA8IZM <i>f c SK</i>  | K8QLM <i>f c</i>        |
| N8BK <i>h</i>       | KA8KTV <i>f c SK</i>  | WB8QNI <i>c</i>         |
| N8FDN <i>c</i>      | G. Manquardt <i>h</i> | KA8VYV <i>h</i>         |
| N8FNO <i>f c</i>    | WD8MFN <i>f c</i>     | WA8VZZ <i>c</i>         |
| J. Haubner <i>c</i> | WD8NHT <i>f c</i>     |                         |

The Editor is:

# Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

*Golden Crystal Award*—The (entire) editorial staff (in a unanimous decision) is proud to announce our special award to USECA's entire Technical Committee—what an outstanding job they have done to enhance our system and keep it peaked at maximum performance. A special thanks goes to John, K8ZEC for his sincere dedication to help our system get back (and stay) on track. John spent many hours to solve the issues at hand—they are now at their lowest ebb in several years! Thanks John!

How about Ken, KF8RG! What a dedicated member! In the five years of my editorializing for USECA, Ken has never missed writing an article for the *Express*; and not only that, he never missed a deadline for you folks to see the current net point standings! Quite an accomplishment—we're going to miss him! Delphine, KC8JSH is now taking over as our net point manager. The NCOs should take note of the new address to submit their net point logs.

Good Luck to all club officers—all re-elected! Keep up the good work. YOU are the "glue" that keeps the club together and headed in the right direction.

—Continued on Page 11

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Club Officers                     | 1  |
| Net Point Awards                  | 1  |
| SATERN News                       | 1  |
| Club Directory                    | 2  |
| Still Going                       | 2  |
| January Notes                     | 3  |
| Big Changes In Amateur Radio      | 3  |
| Net Minders                       | 3  |
| E-Mail Directory                  | 4  |
| '99 Campout Dates/Locations       | 4  |
| Repeater: Questions/Answers       | 5  |
| Amateur Radio—A Definition        | 5  |
| Net Points                        | 6  |
| Net Minders II                    | 7  |
| 1999 Dues                         | 7  |
| Slow Code Nets                    | 8  |
| New 1999 Net Point System         | 8  |
| Board and General Meeting Minutes | 9  |
| Two Hats/Too Rich/Riddles!        | 10 |
| Sell and Wants                    | 11 |
| Field Day Kitchen '99             | 12 |
| What Does RG Signify?             | 12 |
| USECA VE Testing/USECA Apparel    | 12 |
| USECA Membership Application      | 13 |
| Local Area Nets                   | 13 |
| Net Ops Schedules                 | 13 |
| Club Activities.....(Cover)       |    |
| Where's The Swaps?.(Cover)        |    |
| 6-Meter Nets.....(Cover)          |    |

## Ken's Kozy Korner January Notes

Ken, KF8RG

ALTHOUGH I MAY still write for the *Express* occasionally, February's *Express* is the last one in which I will do a monthly "Net Notes" article (mostly a wrap-up of 1998 and "Top 20" lists from the last several years). To be honest, I'll miss at least one aspect of doing the club's netpoint database—I used to have a very hard time remembering callsigns and placing names with them. Not any more!—after almost seven years of punching calls and names into the club database, you tend to become a walking club callbook! **NCOs**: remember, starting Jan. 1, 1999, send your net logs to Delphine at the address listed in the netpoint explanation in this *Express*.

Winter has finally arrived. I wasn't too sure it was comin' at all, after the warm beginning in December and was even beginning to wonder if I took the boat out of the water a month too soon. This is the most opportune time for many of you to go after that license upgrade—less to do around the house/RV/boat and the longer evenings spent inside lend themselves well to studying code or gettin' ready for your next written exam. For those of you with an Extra Class license, remember the *thrill* of going after the next license class? Well, you can *still* upgrade! Ever thought of *working* in radio? Why not go after a commercial license? The GROL (General Radiotelephone Operators License) is a lifetime license, the exam similar to the amateur Advanced, and can be taken at our test site at the Salvation Army in Mt. Clemens (advance registration required). If you're headed into electronic engineering or a technically oriented job, a GROL can definitely be a bright spot on your resume! Ever thought of working aboard a ship? The 2nd & 3rd Class Radiotelegrapher's license could land you a cushy job in the Merchant Marine as a shipboard radio officer (everyone I've ever talked to says it's the best job aboard!). Both licenses require a detailed knowledge of CW operating practices (*your Extra license gives you credit for HALF the exam!*) and radio theory/repair. **Catch the upgrade fever!** See you at a test session soon!

Congratulations to the latest winners of **USECA** Net Awards. Net activity and scoring has reached an *all-time* high for 1998 and will go yet higher in my last report in February. Earning awards were: KG8IF/50 pts. VHF, KC8GUE/50 pts. VHF, KB8YYA/50 pts. VHF, KC8HMG/200 pts. VHF, K8QLM/250 pts. VHF & 300 pts. HF (**WOW!**), KC8IAQ/300 pts. VHF & 150 pts. HF (**WOW!**), KA2IBE/150 pts. HF, and W8RO/100 pts. HF. Thanks to all of you for making USECA's nets more interesting and well attended!

## Big Changes Coming in Amateur Licensing!

Ken, KF8RG

AS I'M SURE most of you have heard by now, the FCC has been proposing some major changes in our licensing structure with an eye towards simplifying (from 6 license classes now, to 4) and making our licensing exams a bit more relevant, (not much sense in forcing HF related Novice written exams on VHF-only No-Code Examinees!) as well as lowering the overall Morse Code speed requirements for HF licensees. The **ARRL** has been hard at work, seeking to mold and shape the inevitable change it could see coming with proposals of its own, as have a few others.

The FCC's *first* proposal (early summer '98) called for 4 license classes, A, B, C, & D, with D Class being the equivalent of the present No-Code Tech, C Class that of General, B Class the same as Advanced, and A Class equaling Extra. The FCC's proposal called for changes in examinations for D Class licensees (No-Code Tech) to more accurately reflect their VHF-only privileges and the elimination of the Novice HF entry-level license. The Novice HF bands, less and less used since the introduction of the No-code Tech License (with the exception of 10m SSB), would've been reallocated as added spectrum for higher class licensees, mostly as phone bands. The FCC also proposed a drop in the required Morse Code speed, recommending 5 wpm for C Class licensees (General) and 12 wpm for B Class (Advanced), dropping the 20 wpm level altogether. The FCC put out a second proposal in early fall, mostly just fine tuning and correcting a few errors that appeared in the first.

The **ARRL** has responded to the FCC's proposals with two of their own. The first **ARRL** response was one that sought only to fine tune the FCC's above proposal but more recently has upped the ante with some very interesting suggestions. The latest **ARRL** proposal calls for 4 license classes with the titles Technician, General, Advanced, & Extra instead of the FCC's more bland A, B, C, & D. The General, Advanced, and Extra class licensee would see some small changes in their written exams, as well as a lowering of code speed requirements to 5 & 12 wpm exactly as in the FCC proposal above. The **ARRL**'s proposal, like the FCC's, also reallocates the present Novice band among the HF class licensees as expanded phone and CW bands. Quite *uniquely* though, under the **ARRL** proposal, Technician licensees would gain CW privileges on many of the HF bands! Although it seems a bit odd to give a no-code licensee

—Continued on Page 11

## Net Minders

Dave, KC8IAQ

HELLO EVERYBODY! A New Year is here! It is time to set our goals and examine our past performance. Last year, we broke all kinds of records for net participation! That is what we set out to do, and I want to thank all of the net participants, and the NCO's. This is a remarkable change, and I can see the trend continuing upward.

Two new nets were added to the list last year, due largely in part to the efforts of Dave W8VB. Thanks Dave! Your efforts paid off, looks like the six meter nets are here to stay. Using this valuable spectrum afforded us is the best argument we have for keeping it. Also, these nets offer their own brand of enjoyment. Nets are smaller, and more comments are solicited from the participants, frequently going several rounds. I think 6 meters will continue to grow in popularity with the increased availability of that band on modern transceivers.

The HF CW nets suddenly picked up recently, both of them. With the NEW slow code net on Thursday nights, there seems to be a resurgence of activity. Floyd W8RO, and Jim W1K are responsible, giving the 5 wpm Novice and Tech Plus a place to feel welcome, and learn how to use their new code skills. What a great idea, wish I would have thought of that. Hand picked operators will fill these slots. They will come back to you at the same speed you send to them, so you won't feel intimidated to participate. The CW learning curve here at USECA has come full circle now! Learn the characters on the MCW 2 meter net to get you 5 wpm, then actually use it on HF! As you continue to improve, you will reach even higher speeds, and really learn to master CW.

Now for the new goals. I want to continue to grow participation and spread activity across more amateur bands, if possible. I am exploring the idea of nets in the 440 band. I have all of this UHF gear, but for some reason it is underutilized. I have been up there a few times, and sometimes I monitor, but I don't use it much. I never hear any nets up there. Who knows, maybe they are forbidden on that band HI HI.

I want to insure that all of nets start on time and are covered. I look forward to work with Delphine KC8JSH keeping those net logs flowing smoothly to her. It will be hard to duplicate last year's performance, but I will try to exceed it. I would like to add more color to our current nets, and clarify their purposes. So, I look forward to another year of record breaking net activity! Let's all get more RADIO-ACTIVE!

Leave A Gap!

E-Mail Directory

N8ABF, Bob: n8abf@earthlink.net  
 N8ARO, Al: allum@mich.com  
 K8CFY, Jerry: irish12@juno.com  
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 KC8DBE; Charles: kc8dbe@ees.eesc.com  
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"YOU'VE GOT MAIL!"

★New/change from previous.  
 If you are a club member and would like your address published (or changed) in the *Express*, send it via e-mail to K8OEF.

'99 Campout Dates/Locations

April 9-11—Easter Weekend—Tawas  
 May 28-31—Memorial Weekend  
 June 25-27—Field Day Weekend  
 July 23-25—Christmas in July  
 August 6-15—Big 10-Day Campout



September 3rd (or 4th)-6—Labor Day Weekend—Tawas  
 Craft Shows in Tawas & Harrisville  
 September 24-26—Western Weekend  
 October 15-17—Halloween at Algonac  
 (Must be booked ASAP)  
 Campgrounds will be in subsequent *Express*. Any suggestions or questions, call Dina, N8YJI (810) 777-4207.

Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now . . . We're On The Move!

## Repeater—You've Got Questions? We've Got Answers!

Floyd, W8RO

**A**SK YOURSELF THIS question. Am I making it more or less difficult (or efficient) in my communications with the use of "jargon" or non-standard terms and phrases? Even though the answer should be obvious, it is not to many that use the repeater. Upon closer examination, we can analyze and improve how we communicate, without taking any of the fun out of 2 meters.

The use of Q Signals should be rare. "Even though you're pushing me to 8 or 9 pounds, I've got some QRM and QRN at this end. The personal at this end is Willie; Washington - Ida - Lincoln - Lincoln - Ida-Escondido. I'm QRU, so QRX one and I'll try again in a bit. I'm gonna QSY to another QRP QSO. Seven-thirds and back to the QNN, QSL?" You'd have to be a code and cipher expert to understand that junk! Just say it with real WORDS!

This leads us to phonetics. To quote FM & Repeaters (a column in QST), "Spelling your name (or anything else) on an FM repeater (even phonetically) is questionable at best. The exception might be if your name is truly unusual, or if your signal is marginal into the system." High quality FM has been used for broadcasting for decades. The announcers don't have to spell things out while they are broadcasting. Even if we're using narrow band FM, the quality is still better than what you'll find on HF. Point is, with good enunciation, the use of phonetics is superfluous. No need to waste the time or resources to do that.

How about "over," "handle," "negative contact," "clear," "for ID," "full quieting," "we..." "personal," & "...on your final."

OK, one at a time: "Over." On HF, it's meant to tell the other stations that you have unkeyed. The Courtesy Tone on the repeater serves that purpose very nicely, thank you very much.

"Handle" and "Personal." The key thought here is NAME. Just say it! One syllable as opposed to two or three! Nothing can be more efficient. As you've undoubtedly heard, "Pots have handles and newspapers have personals." People have names!

"Negative Contact." [Or, "Nothing Heard"—Ed.] Again, on HF, there is a possibility that due to propagation, hams on certain parts of the country (or world) may not hear if someone answers your call. It's a stretch, but that's about the only time this phrase can be justified. On a repeater, ANYONE that is listening will hear whether or not someone responds to a call. It's OBVIOUS when nobody answers! Lose this phrase, it has no useful purpose on a repeater.

Speaking of phrases with no useful purpose, "...for ID" fits that category too! There is absolutely no other reason in the universe to use your callsign. Lose this redundant phrase too!

"...on your final." Means "...on your final transmission." Is that what you REALLY mean?

"Clear." CB and Police lingo. CBers use it because they don't know any better. Police

use it to let their dispatchers know that they have completed their assignment and ready for the next. On the repeater, dump this one too.

"We." You got a frog in your pocket? Your radio and you, maybe?

"Full Quieting." This term is used in FM. It's related to signal strength threshold inside of FM receiver circuits and how the receiver captures the incoming signal that has sufficient strength to "quiet" the background noise. Without going into anymore details, let's suffice to say that a "full quieting" signal is just that, full quieting! That means no white noise or static coming along with the input signal! All this "...you're full quieting into the system" and you hear picket fencing and all kinds of other junk in there is just like the 59 reports given on HF and then follows all the questions for the information that was missed! Use this phrase correctly!

Last quote from the FM & Repeaters column in QST. "Well Bob, may the good Lord take a liking to you and yours. Have a good day today and a better day tomorrow. We will be clear on your final and I wish you 73s and a goodnight. This is KD0XYZ clear and QRT."

You wouldn't say this to anyone face to face. No need to say all that on the repeater either. If you want to pass the pleasantries, do it without the CB slang. Use seven-three properly and sign off.

73.

## Amateur Radio—A Definition

Jim, W1IK

**A**MATEUR RADIO, for those of you who may not be familiar with it, is "a global fraternity" of radio hobbyist. Although their common interest is radio communication, the Radio Amateur (sometimes referred to as "Ham") may come from any background, and is likely to have other, widely varying interests. He may be a Japanese electrical engineer or a Bronx shop owner, a camper in a Canadian National Forest, or a U.S. legislator. But regardless of his background or other interests, he is involved in a class of radio service dedicated mainly to the experimentation with and the advancement of radio communication, and is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

How did Amateur Radio become the almost unlimited hobby it is today? Well, it had its beginning around the turn of the century, when electrical experimenters were attempting to communicate among themselves using primitive radio gear. Back then, it was difficult to achieve long range contacts.

So, in 1914, the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) was organized to relay messages via Amateur Radio. The League later grew to represent the Radio Amateur in legislative matters.

But these radio operators were not entirely self-centered in their art-- quite to the contrary. The public service record of the Amateur is a brilliant tribute to his work. Perhaps the first example of this is when Don Mix (1TS operating station WNP) accompanied MacMillan to the Arctic on the schooner Bodoin with an amateur station. This was such a success that shortly after, a total of perhaps 200 expeditions were assisted by Amateur Radio, including several explorations of the Antarctic. In fact, Amateur Radio has been, in many cases, the only means of outside communication in such emergencies as the earthquakes of Alaska in 1964, Peru in '70, California in '71, Guatemala and Italy in '76, and the relief efforts after the Dakota floods and tropical storm Agnes, to name just a few. "Hams" pride themselves

upon their self-reliance and efficiency in emergency situations.

In addition to relief and emergency work, the Radio Amateur has made many significant technological contributions to both the communications field and his country. During World War II, thousands of Amateurs contributed their skills in the development of modern military communications equipment and secret radio devices.

—Continued on Page 11

**USECA 1998 VHF Net Points As Received By December 5th**

| Call   | Name   | pts | Call   | Name     | pts | Call   | Name     | pts |
|--------|--------|-----|--------|----------|-----|--------|----------|-----|
| KAURYI | JIM    | 5   | KB8GFE | KEN      | 1   | N8MIV  | NORM     | 2   |
| W1IK   | JIM    | 129 | KC8GFN | DAVE     | 11  | K8MKA  | STAG     | 4   |
| N11QP  | DAVE   | 1   | KC8GKT | GARY     | 1   | KA8NDY | DAN      | 22  |
| KA2IBE | JOHN   | 78  | KC8GMT | LORA     | 112 | W8NG   | JIM      | 23  |
| WX3L   | MIKE   | 1   | KC8GNH | KEVIN    | 4   | N8NMX  | BILL     | 2   |
| VE3LFZ | MARIE  | 1   | W8GQL  | DAN      | 11  | N8NQO  | BIFF     | 10  |
| WX3M   | DON    | 2   | KC8GRZ | JERRY    | 2   | N8OAE  | ERNIE    | 9   |
| VE3SUB | TERRY  | 3   | KC8GUC | LENNY    | 44  | N8ODY  | STEVE    | 1   |
| VE3TBI | TIM    | 1   | KC8GUE | MIKE     | 50  | K8OEF  | JOE      | 1   |
| VE3VDF | MARK   | 3   | KC8GXE | PATRICK  | 1   | N8OEF  | VAL      | 62  |
| VA3WLC | WES    | 1   | W8BH   | GORDY    | 11  | N8OEV  | DAVE     | 14  |
| KE4CFV | BILL   | 1   | W8BHH  | JERRY    | 1   | N8OEX  | EARL     | 2   |
| KC4ITU | DWIGHT | 7   | KC8HMG | JANICE   | 201 | W880IS | LEN      | 1   |
| N4KN   | IRA    | 1   | KC8HMJ | RICH     | 2   | N8OKW  | JIM      | 19  |
| KE4MTM | MIKE   | 9   | KC8HMM | SAM      | 82  | AA8OZ  | PAUL     | 15  |
| KC4ZHC | STEVE  | 2   | KC8HMN | SCOTT    | 5   | N8PDP  | MICHAEL  | 40  |
| KM5D   | ERIC   | 2   | KB8HSR | TIM      | 1   | K8BPKV | DUANE    | 1   |
| N8ABF  | BOB    | 1   | KF8HT  | CHUCK    | 21  | K8PLW  | DAN      | 19  |
| N8AFC  | LARRY  | 1   | N8HTV  | JOHN     | 2   | K8QLM  | RICHARD  | 269 |
| KB8AKS | JERRY  | 4   | KC8HYM | JOHN     | 1   | KB8QMP | BILL     | 6   |
| KC8ARS | HENRY  | 8   | KC8HYU | JON      | 147 | KB8QMS | NANCY    | 62  |
| N8ASD  | LARRY  | 1   | N8HZE  | KEN      | 10  | W88QNI | VANCE    | 1   |
| K88BW  | TONY   | 1   | KC8IAO | PEGGY    | 15  | N8OQJ  | TOM      | 1   |
| KC8BFP | MARK   | 30  | KC8IAP | MARY     | 182 | KA8QPJ | DAVE     | 7   |
| KC8BFF | MARK   | 1   | KC8IAQ | DAVE     | 305 | N8QXP  | CHUCK    | 1   |
| W8BHF  | BOB    | 1   | W8IC   | PHIL     | 1   | N8RAR  | WAYNE    | 11  |
| KC8BIU | TED    | 4   | KC8IDG | KEVIN    | 20  | KB8RBV | MANNY    | 8   |
| KB8BMV | MIKE   | 2   | KC8IDZ | DAVE     | 1   | N8RER  | BOB      | 1   |
| KB8BSG | CARL   | 1   | K8BIE  | SCOTT    | 2   | N8REZ  | MARK     | 3   |
| KC8BSG | CARL   | 1   | K8BIF  | ANN      | 50  | K8RRG  | KEN      | 39  |
| AB8BT  | ANDY   | 105 | W8BIFL | DAVE     | 14  | N8RHT  | RICK     | 2   |
| KC8BXD | HENRY  | 11  | KC8IJK | SHAWN    | 15  | W8RO   | FLOYD    | 75  |
| K8CFY  | JERRY  | 43  | KC8IMP | TOBY     | 1   | N8RRU  | JERRY    | 15  |
| W8CMCS | ED     | 1   | KC8IPE | AMY      | 5   | N8RRY  | ERIC     | 1   |
| KC8CPT | ROGER  | 1   | KC8IPF | DENISE   | 8   | KB8RSO | OWEN     | 1   |
| AB8CQ  | MIKE   | 2   | W8IR   | MARK     | 40  | N8RUE  | EDDIE    | 11  |
| KC8DBG | BILL   | 62  | W8BITJ | JACK     | 2   | N8SA   | BILL     | 15  |
| KC8DDL | ANDY   | 1   | KC8IXY | GAIL     | 1   | N8SCQ  | BOB      | 1   |
| KB8DEJ | LEE    | 1   | KC8IZG | DAVE     | 19  | N8SIH  | BETTY    | 38  |
| W8DFG  | DENNIS | 74  | KC8JBK | CHARLIE  | 2   | K8BTAS | JERRY    | 56  |
| KC8DIR | BRIAN  | 176 | KC8JMP | JOHN     | 44  | KB8TEZ | MATT     | 44  |
| KC8DPO | RON    | 6   | K8JN   | FRANK    | 1   | N8TMJ  | MARIANNE | 13  |
| KC8DPT | TOM    | 4   | W8JPR  | BILL     | 32  | N8TMN  | DAVE     | 1   |
| KB8DSC | JOHN   | 2   | KC8JSF | JEFF     | 4   | W8TSG  | GEORGE   | 1   |
| N8DVO  | FRED   | 15  | KC8JSH | DELPHINE | 25  | W8TUF  | TED      | 5   |
| K8DXX  | BILL   | 3   | KC8JTK | BILL     | 3   | N8TVN  | STEVE    | 4   |
| K8DZT  | FRANK  | 1   | N8JAX  | DENNIS   | 1   | W8BUKU | CHRIS    | 1   |
| KC8DZT | TOM    | 5   | KC8KBO | CHARLES  | 5   | KB8BLS | ROGER    | 5   |
| W88E   | WALT   | 64  | KC8KBP | LARRY    | 2   | KB8UM  | MURRAY   | 3   |
| KC8ECB | KEN    | 1   | KC8KBQ | ERNIE    | 1   | K8BUUV | JOE      | 2   |
| KC8EDF | KEN    | 1   | W8KC   | PAUL     | 29  | W8UV   | KURT     | 2   |
| KC8EDK | BRIAN  | 3   | KC8KIO | CINDY    | 2   | K8VAC  | RAYMOND  | 1   |
| W88EJU | BOB    | 1   | KC8KIP | SCOTT    | 5   | W8VB   | DAVE     | 163 |
| KC8EHV | KEITH  | 1   | KC8KIR | MATT     | 6   | N8VBK  | JIM      | 2   |
| KB8EOD | MIKE   | 4   | KC8KJL | BRIAN    | 1   | W8VJI  | GULLIVER | 1   |
| KC8EPQ | ROGER  | 8   | KC8KJN | STEVE    | 4   | N8VLY  | JOAN     | 3   |
| N8ERV  | TOM    | 6   | N8KND  | DOUG     | 8   | N8VVH  | LINDA    | 3   |
| KC8EZW | MARK   | 10  | KC8KNJ | FLORIN   | 1   | KB8WBV | KEN      | 3   |
| KC8FDQ | DUSTIN | 1   | KC8KRU | DENNIS   | 2   | K88WG  | LEE      | 10  |
| KC8FRW | JOHN   | 71  | KC8KSF | JEFF     | 1   | K88WH  | DAVE     | 18  |
| KC8FRY | DON    | 2   | K8KV   | BEN      | 3   | K8WI   | BILL     | 3   |
| K8FT   | JIM    | 3   | KB8LAG | CLAYTON  | 2   | KB8WLR | CHUCK    | 2   |
| KC8FTW | JOHN   | 1   | KC8LAH | STU      | 9   | KB8WTH | RICHARD  | 85  |
| KC8FTX | LEO    | 3   | KC8LDM | MIKE     | 1   | KY8X   | JOE      | 42  |
| W88FUI | PHIL   | 11  | KB8LPY | ANDY     | 1   | KF8XO  | JEFF     | 3   |
| KC8FXI | MIKE   | 9   | KC8LPY | DAVE     | 1   | N8YBY  | LEN      | 34  |
| KC8FYP | GEORGE | 3   | WY8M   | ARPAD    | 28  | N8YJI  | DINA     | 24  |
| KC8FYQ | GERALD | 10  | KB8MBC | NORM     | 1   | N8YTV  | HARRY    | 3   |
| KC8FYR | BRENT  | 18  | N8MCD  | JIM      | 19  | N8YWS  | STAN     | 1   |
| K8GEO  | GEORGE | 9   | AA8MF  | BILL     | 2   | K8YX   | DOC      | 102 |
|        |        |     | W8MIR  | JOHN     | 11  | KB8YYA | DREUX    | 50  |

Displayed 221 of 314

| Call   | Name   | pts |
|--------|--------|-----|
| KB8YYB | DEBBIE | 20  |
| N8ZFA  | PETE   | 2   |
| N8ZZE  | JOHN   | 1   |
| N8ZZF  | PAT    | 16  |
| KZ8ZZZ | LES    | 6   |
| K9GUY  | GARY   | 3   |

**NOTE! ALL '98 NET LOGS DUE BY 1/7/99!**

**Top 20 VHF Operators**

| Call | Name   | pts     |     |
|------|--------|---------|-----|
| 1    | KC8IAQ | DAVE    | 201 |
| 2    | KB8QLM | RICHARD | 269 |
| 3    | KC8HMG | JANICE  | 201 |
| 4    | KC8IAP | MARY    | 182 |
| 5    | KC8DIR | BRIAN   | 176 |
| 6    | W8VB   | DAVE    | 163 |
| 7    | KC8HYU | JON     | 147 |
| 8    | W1IK   | JIM     | 129 |
| 9    | KC8GMT | LORA    | 112 |
| 10   | AB8BT  | ANDY    | 105 |
| 11   | KC8IXY | GAIL    | 105 |
| 12   | KB8WTH | RICHARD | 85  |
| 13   | KC8HMM | SAM     | 82  |
| 14   | KA2IBE | JOHN    | 78  |
| 15   | W8RO   | FLOYD   | 75  |
| 16   | W8DFG  | DENNIS  | 74  |
| 17   | KC8FRW | JOHN    | 71  |
| 18   | W8BE   | WALT    | 64  |
| 19   | KC8DBG | BILL    | 62  |
| 20   | N8OEF  | VAL     | 62  |

**Top HF operators**

| Call | Name   | pts     |     |
|------|--------|---------|-----|
| 1    | KB8QLM | RICHARD | 307 |
| 2    | KC8GMT | LORA    | 244 |
| 3    | KC8IAQ | DAVE    | 155 |
| 4    | KA2IBE | JOHN    | 150 |
| 5    | W8JPR  | BILL    | 140 |
| 6    | W8RO   | FLOYD   | 126 |
| 7    | KF8RG  | KEN     | 94  |
| 8    | KC8HMG | JANICE  | 84  |
| 9    | K88YX  | DOC     | 71  |
| 10   | KB8TAS | JERRY   | 66  |
| 11   | KC8IAP | MARY    | 55  |
| 12   | W8BE   | WALT    | 44  |
| 13   | W8DFG  | DENNIS  | 33  |
| 14   | AA8DD  | BOB     | 24  |
| 15   | KC8GUC | LENNY   | 23  |
| 16   | W8IR   | MARK    | 19  |
| 17   | K8WI   | BILL    | 18  |
| 18   | W1IK   | JIM     | 18  |
| 19   | N8VYO  | AL      | 16  |
| 20   | KC8ECB | KEN     | 14  |

1998 Database c/o KF8RG (Ken)  
Software written by W8UC (Tom)

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

**NCOs, Please Note!**

Beginning Jan. 1, Please send your net logs to KC8JSH, our new USECA Awards Manager.

## Net Minders II

Dave, KC8IAQ

**E**ACH ONE OF OUR nets has a purpose. We have many nets, it can be hard to sort it all out. So, by printing this I hope to bring about a better understanding of each net. All of the USECA Nets are OPEN nets, meaning you don't have to be a member of our club to participate.

Nets are a way for amateurs to practice communicating. Practice, practice, practice. Taking turns. Waiting. Sharing important information. A Net Control Operator is provided to direct the net. His job is to make sure everyone gets a chance to speak, and keep the flow going without confusion.

To me, the Nets are a way to welcome new prospective members to our club. How did you hear about the USECA club? Just got your Ham license? A net is the perfect way to get active. Scanner listeners also love to hear amateurs talk, and frequently become Net Hounds. Some members have started this way. Are you starting to see the importance of our nets?

Nets also generate activity on quiet bands. Our valuable spectrum is constantly under attack from commercial big bucks. By making more use of the less used amateur spectrum, it helps our argument to keep it. It can also help relieve congestion in the crowded 2 meter band.

The USECA Sunday International Information Net. This net was originally just a plain information net. Several years ago, there was a edict to attract our friendly neighbors in Canada. The net had "International" added to the name, so that our neighbors would feel welcome to check in. The purpose of this net is to pass amateur related information, and news of value to the amateur community. This is one of our biggest nets, conducted on the USECA repeater every Sunday at 1:00 PM. Because the net typically lasts an hour or more, the traffic must flow quickly, so the NCO should refrain from monopolizing and control the flow of traffic. Even though we do not have a traders net, listing items for sale when you check in is O.K. Any questions you may have about club activities, or any other technical matter, you can post your "question" on the net.

The Monday MCW Slow Code Net. This is a cyclical net, running approximately 8 weeks per cycle. The net is seasonal, running from fall, through winter, and well into the spring. The net terminates in the summer season. Jim, W1IK and Val, N8OEF have been hosting this net 3 years now, and have never missed controlling a net. This is a good place for those of you that want to earn your 5 wpm code. I used this method and it works! You are introduced to each Morse code "sound" and several tips and kinks are shared to improve your practice habits. To keep this valuable learning tool going, we will eventually have to help Val and Jim staff this net. If you are interested please feel free to contact Jim, Val, or myself. This net is on the USECA repeater every Monday night at 9:00

PM. This is not high pressure stuff. You will not be expected to read code back to the NCO, however sometimes your call will be thrown out, or your name. If you don't pick it up, it is not a big deal. It is a lot of fun. Don't be shy. Take advantage of this learning tool!

The USECA Tuesday Information Net. This net is the sister to the Sunday International net. This net is also one of the bigger nets. So the same rules apply on this net as the Sunday International net. This net was started for those members that might have not been available Sunday. It airs every Tuesday night at 8:00 PM, with the exception of the second Tuesday of each month (our club meeting night).

The USECA 6 Meter SSB Net. This is a new net started just last year. The 6 meter band is sometimes referred to as the "Magic Band". 50 MHz signals can and do behave like magic. Both Tropo Ducting, and when the MUF is high enough, HF type propagation! Conditions come and go quickly at times, and groundwave is somewhat farther than 2 meter coverage. This net meets every Wednesday night at 7:00 PM on 50.130 MHz USB.

The USECA 6 meter FM Net. This net started about the same time as the SSB net last year. It is conducted on the N8MCD repeater in Romeo Michigan. Jim, N8MCD often drops in to chat on this net. Topics are related mostly to 6 meter stuff, but some really good conversations and interesting topics have been hashed out here. These nets are smaller, and more cozy. The NCO has time to pass it around at least twice, so you can cover your subject matter in more detail. This net meets right after the SSB net at 8:00 PM. The repeater uses a -500 kHz offset. Input is 51.240, and the output is 51.740. A 100 Hz PL may be used at times, when conditions warrant.

The USECA 15 meter Slow Code CW Net. This net was in danger of dying. Instead of scrapping the net, the net was given a new purpose. This net is a stepping stone, and a place to bring your new skills. Now that you can do 5 wpm, it is time to get on the HF bands and practice your sending skills! These net operators are hand-picked and instructed to go back to you at your sending speed—even if it is less than 5 wpm! Learn operating protocols for CW. This net is conducted every Thursday night at 9:00 PM, 21.140 MHz.

The USECA 15 meter CW Net. This net has gained popularity in the last few months. If you want even more CW practice, this will help. Although this is not billed as a slow net, The NCO will still slow down to your speed. Many times people will show up a little early and pass it back and fourth before the net gets started. This net is conducted every Friday night, at 10:00 PM on 21.140 MHz, kicking off USECAs Net Night.

The USECA 10 meter Phone Net. This net has been very popular also. If you have your HF gear and license, be sure to tune into this net! Sometimes, we get check-ins from DX stations! I have logged local stations from west of Ann Arbor, and north of Port Huron! Not bad for Local coverage. Topics are

sometimes introduced, and the nice thing about this net is you never get a purple crystal! We have great exchanges and meet new people there all of the time. Currently this is USECAs only HF Phone net, so it is a popular net. This net is conducted every Friday night, at 11:00 PM on 28.425 MHz USB.

The USECA Hoot Owl Net. This net stands out from all of USECAs other nets. This net has a colorful history. Topics range from satirical to controversial and you never know what to expect. This is a loose run net, mainly for FUN! Sometimes topics are steamy, that is why it runs at Midnight. Often comments are thrown in out of turn, (in between transmissions) you know wise cracks, and comments from the peanut gallery. This is supposed to happen, but this net has been kinda stuffy lately. We need to have more fun with this net! There is no other net I know of like this, which exists to explore controversial subject matter and just plain old FUN! So, be sure to stay up Friday night! This net is conducted at midnight, Friday night, on the USECA repeater.

As you can see, USECA has many nets. One of these nets will fit your schedule. 7:00 PM (6 meter SSB) 8:00 PM (6 meter FM, and Tuesday Info Net) 9:00 PM (MCW Slow code and CW HF Slow code) 10:00 PM (HF CW net) 11:00 PM (10 meter Phone) Midnight (Hoot Owl Net) and 1:00 PM (International Information Net). Please plan on attending one of these nets.



### 1999 DUES!

If you're reading this and your 1999 dues are still unpaid, they are now **OVERDUE!** Your 1999 USECA Dues were **LATE as of 1/1/99**—get that checkbook out **NOW**, and renew your annual membership or **THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!** You'll find a membership form at the end of every *Express*. Give your extra forms to your friends and help the club grow.

—Submitted by Ken, KF8RG

## SLOW CODE NETS

*Jim, W1IK and Floyd, W8RO*

**W**E'VE HAD REQUESTS from net participants to clarify the use of prosigns. We have been addressing this request and hope that it has been successful in answering your questions. This feedback is welcome and important to those of us that organize and run these nets. It keeps us on track and lets us know how we are doing with the curriculum. For those that have been participating in the 15 meter net, we'd like to hear from you regarding the effectiveness of the 15 / 2 meter experiment. Hey! Ya gotta try some new ideas once in a while!

While we're on the subject of procedural prosigns, let's just review the most commonly used ones. One of the most popular is R for "roger" or "received". It means "all received correctly", no more, no less! It does NOT mean "yes" or "affirmative" or "wilco" (will comply)! Another very popular prosign is the K. K means "any station go ahead". K normally follows a CQ (calling any station) call. It is also used on overs between two stations in a QSO (contact). Here, it means that the two stations involved are welcoming any station to join the QSO.

This leads us to the KN, which means "go only" or "only addressed station reply". Normally used in a QSO where on the overs, the stations do not want anyone breaking in. Only the station that was addressed or called on is to respond. Another very popular prosign is BT. BT can be thought of as a dash, a pause or a separation. It is used to separate thoughts and sentences. Along with the period (.-.-) and comma (--.-), these prosigns and the proper use of spacing between elements, characters and words, make it easy to know where the words and sentences begin and end. BK is used in conversational CW or in contacts where very efficient use of airtime is required, like in a net, for example.

On the overs, instead of sending the other stations call, then de, then your call; you can

send your brief thought or question then BK. The other station will begin with BK and reply with their thoughts / questions, and end with BK to send it back. Using the BK eliminates the tedious and inefficient overs where four callsigns are used just to turn it over to another station. Just be sure that you ID every ten minutes or less and that it is obvious who you are addressing in a multi-station QSO. C means "yes" or "affirmative". N means "no" or "negative."

A string of eight dots means the previous word was a mistake and that here comes the correct word. AR means "over", used when calling or addressing another station BEFORE contact has been established. (Remember, if you are addressing one station only and you have already established contact, then use KN.) If I am calling Wait and we have not yet established contact, here's what I'll send: WB8E WB8E WB8E de W8RO W8RO W8RO AR Once we've established contact, I will not use the AR anymore. AS very simply means "stand-by" or "wait". SK means that you are clearing or ending the contact and do not expect a reply. CL means that you are going off the air (QRT). There are plenty more prosigns, but these are the most popular ones. We'll talk about Q signals, Zero Beating and net operations in following articles.

We're still in desperate need of additional instructors for our Two Meter Slow Code Practice Net. Since the net's inception almost three years ago, there has been a NCO available (sometimes in extremely short order) to teach whenever there has been a net scheduled. This is really quite a record, considering that this net has never had but two NCOs (Jim, W1IK and Val, N8OEF). We're not honking our own horns here, but trying to make a point.

With the Holiday season now upon us, it's unrealistic (not to mention unfair) to take for granted that these two stations alone will be there to continue teaching Morse Code week

after week. They have families and jobs, as well as the obligations that come with them.

Without additional volunteers (that's right, Jim and Val VOLUNTEERED to create and make this net a reality), there WILL be a time, very soon, when you'll tune to the repeater at 9:00pm on Monday night, only to be met with silence. This is not a threat, only a statement of the cold, hard truth.

This is the way of things, but it need not be. You CAN help the Two Meter Slow Code Net remain on the air without interruption (and as anyone who has attempted to learn code will tell you, an UN-INTERRUPTED study regimen is essential to success).

Contrary to popular belief, it is NOT necessary that you be some kind of "code expert" to teach others the code! In fact, the curriculum is already laid out for you. All that is really needed to teach these nets is the commitment to be there when your net comes up and present the characters and review, if any, that is to be covered on that particular week.

Of course, there is some latitude for your personal approach to presenting this material, but basically, the net's methods are "tried-and-true" (we've been doing this for three years, remember?).

If you think you might be able to help out, YOU CAN! It's EASY, it's FUN, and it's ESSENTIAL. Please step up and volunteer to take a net or two per cycle. The net repeats its curriculum every eight weeks, and you'd only be asked to commit to one or two of those weeks per eight.

To help out, please contact Jim, W1IK, Val N8OEF, or USECA's Net Manager, Dave, KC8IAQ. They're all listed in the club roster and e-mail directory, or contact them on the repeater. Please help keep a good thing going.

*[If you still can't find them, Dave's phone number is listed on page 2—he's a board member—Ed.]*

## NEW! 1999 Net Point System (As of Jan. 1)

- ✓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; plaques 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 logs to: 17516 Brill Dr., Clinton Twp., MI 48035 c/o KC8JSH; E-Mail: [delwro@att.net](mailto:delwro@att.net); or on the air to pass your list.
- ✓5) If *you* notice any errors in the database, wrong or changed call signs, misspelled names, etc., let Delphine know ASAP.

**USECA Board Meeting Minutes—December 1, 1998**

In attendance:

- W8DFG, Dennis      President
- KB8QMS, Nancy    Vice-President
- KB8YYB, Debbi    Recording Secretary/Swap Chairperson
- W8IR, Mark        Membership Secretary
- N8OKW, Jim        Treasurer
- KC8IAQ, Dave      Board Member
- KG8IF, Ann        Board Member
- N8TMJ, Marianne   Board Member
- W8RO, Floyd      Past President
- \*K8CFY, Jerry      Historian
- K8OEF, Joe        Express Editor
- W8VB, Dave        ARRL Liaison
- WB8E, Walt        Field Day Chairman
- N8KND, Doug      Repeater Technician
- KB8TAS, Jerry; WY8M, Arpad; K8ZEC, John; N8SIH, Betty
- \*Absent



The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:32 P.M.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Membership: Current membership exceeds 245.

Correspondence: A letter from the ARRL verifying our sanctioned Swap on October 24, 1998 was received and filed. A letter from John Hilton, WD8PFX, was received and filed.

Repeater: Doug, N8KND, expressed his gratitude to John, K8ZEC, for his skill and expertise.

Express: Articles will be due at the meeting on December 8, 1998.

ARRL: Dave, W8VB, has contacted the ARRL regarding their omission of USECA from the current repeated directory. Steps have been taken to insure that this will not happen again.

Health and Welfare: Cards sent by the Committee have been well received.

**Old Business:**

Christmas Party: Ann, KG8IF, brought forth pertinent information regarding this year's party. The 1999 Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 11, 1999.

Discussion began regarding financial guidelines for the club. Treasurer, Jim, N8OKW, presented possible guidelines. They will be reviewed for later discussion.

**New Business:**

Ann, KG8IF, opened dialog involving committee chair assignments. The subject was tabled.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Debbi Cokewell, KB8YYB  
Recording Secretary



**USECA General Meeting Minutes—December 8, 1998**

In attendance:

- W8DFG, Dennis      President
- KB8QMS, Nancy    Vice-President
- KB8YYB, Debbi    Recording Secretary/Swap Chairperson
- W8IR, Mark        Membership Secretary
- N8OKW, Jim        Treasurer
- KC8IAQ, Dave      Board Member
- KG8IF, Ann        Board Member
- N8TMJ, Marianne   Board Member
- W8RO, Floyd      Past President
- K8CFY, Jerry      Historian

- K8OEF, Joe        Express Editor
- W8VB, Dave        ARRL Liaison
- WB8E, Walt        Field Day Chairman
- N8KND, Doug      Repeater Technician
- \*Absent

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

New upgrades were recognized.

A motion was made by Ted, KC8BIU, seconded by John, KA2IBE, and passed to accept the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Express.

A motion was made by Jerry, KB8TAS, seconded by Ron, KC8DPO, and passed to accept the treasurer's report.

Membership: Current 1998 paid membership is in excess of 248.

Repeater: Doug, N8KND, reported that the repeated is back up to 200+ watts. There are plans to install a thermostat to keep temperature constant. There will be a Tech Committee meeting on December 15, 1998, 7:00 P.M. at Doug's, N8KND house.

Express: Articles for the Express are due tonight.

Net Manager: NCO's are needed for all nets, in particular the Monday evening Slow Code Net. Join the fun and see Dave, KC8IAQ, to volunteer.

Health and Welfare: Marianne, N8TMJ, recapitulated information regarding cards that have been recently sent.

Testing: Testing will continue to be the first Saturday of each month at the Salvation Army in Mt. Clemens. Also, the ham radio open house will continue every Saturday evening from 7:00-11:00 P.M. Beginning Saturday, January 16, 1999, 7:00 - 9:00 P.M., there will be a Novice Tech Class at the Salvation Army. 7:00 - 7:30 P.M. will be CW, followed by text study 7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. The class will run for 10 weeks. There will be a \$20 commitment fee required, which will be refunded when class has been completed.

Hosts: Many thanks to this month's host, Chuck, KF8HT, and Len, KC8GUE. Next month's hosts will be Richard, K8QLM, and his DX babe, Janice, KC8HMG.

**Old Business:**

Road Rally: Jim, N8OKW, announced a Winter Rally at Alpine Rally in Valley on January 23, 1999. See Jim to volunteer to help with this fun event.

Christmas Party: Ann, KG8IF, promulgated that the Christmas Party was a roaring success. Many thanks to Bill, N8SA, for handling the White Elephant and many thanks to Marilyn, K8PIK, for handling Woody. Ann received a hearty round of applause for the terrific job she did.

Dennis, W8DFG, informed the membership that the difference in the previously reported Field Day point total and the actual point total was due to a misread on the submission form.

**New Business:**

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Gerald, KC8FYQ, for his hard work handling parking for the 1998 USECA Swap.

Dreux, KB8YYA, reminded everyone that Walk America will be held on April 25, 1999 at Metropolitan Beach.

Walt, WB8E, blazoned news of the first Field Day meeting on Saturday, January 30, 1999 at the Salvation Army at 7:30 P.M.

Nominations for the upcoming election were closed.

Election results were:

- President: Dennis, W8DFG
- Vice President: Nancy, KB8QMS

—Continued on Page 11

## Two Hats!

Joe, K8OEF

USECA MEMBERS ARE very fortunate. Just look around! The re-elected officers are wearing "two hats" (or more) and do more than just attend the meetings.

Dennis is preparing for WalkAmerica; also, he's around on a daily basis trying to maintain order and continuity on our repeater system.

Nancy is designing our field day shirts and coordinates our program at the monthly meetings.

Debbi is our swap guru this year—what a task to volunteer for!

Jim's actively pursuing us to participate in road rallies along with the necessary communications.

Mark is up at all hours of the day and night; occasionally putting in a 12-hour shift with SATERN and its required needs regardless of the situation; he also takes the heat when you don't get your *Express*.

Dave is pulling his hair to keep the Net Ops on time and coordinated along with his technical expertise on the tech committee.

Ann has next year's Christmas party already set; and is readying our ninth annual Pre-Field Day.

Last but not least, Marianne keeps our faces fed at the meetings; and making sure the Health & Welfare duties are filled; and lately there have been many occasions for her to inform our members we are all thinking of them; she's also our location coordinator for our monthly meetings.

And do not forget Floyd; he's done more behind the scenes for this club than anyone I know—trust me, I know.

These people do all that, and still are dedicated club members—all of them. You want to see them in action, come to a board meeting.

In that light—all you USECA members are very fortunate you have the right people in the right positions to keep this club in the limelight of amateur radio.

So, the next time you see them, why not tell them, "Thank You." That's not asking much for all they do—they do it for you—and do it for free on a volunteer basis.

Officers: Keep your Hats On!

And . . . from me . . . "Thank You"!



Dreux, KB8YYA received his Net Points Award at December's meeting.

Bill Gates:

## Too Rich!

Examine Bill Gates' wealth compared to yours: Consider the average American of reasonable but modest wealth. Perhaps he has a net worth of \$100,000. Mr. Gates' worth is 400,000 times larger. Which means that if something costs \$100,000 to him, to Bill it's as though it costs 25 cents. You can work out the right multiplier for your own net worth.

So for example, you might think a new Lamborghini Diablo would cost \$250,000, but in Bill Gates dollars that's 63 cents.

That fully loaded, multimedia active matrix 233 MHz laptop with the 1024x768 screen you've been drooling after? A penny.

A nice home in a rich town Palo Alto, California? Two dollars.

That nice mansion he's building? A reasonable \$125 to him.

You might spend \$100 on tickets, food and parking to take your family to see an NHL hockey game. Bill, on the other hand, could buy the team for 100 Bill-bills.

You might buy a plane ticket on a Boeing 747 for \$1200 at full-fare coach. In Bill-bills, Mr. Gates could buy three 747s. One for him, one for Melinda and one for young Jennifer Katherine.

Evan Marcus, a Systems Engineer from Fair Lawn, New Jersey who maintains a Bill Gates Net Worth Page on his web site, notes that Bill could buy every single major league team in Baseball, Football, Basketball and Hockey for only about 35% of his net worth—plenty left over to buy a European sport.

Of course then he wouldn't have around \$150 for every person in the USA as he does now. Nor could he still give \$6.70 to every person on the planet.

Marcus suggests that Bill could only pay Michael Jordan's 1997 salary only 1300 times, but that he could buy 902 million subscriptions to TV guide. He's also fascinated by how much all this money would be if put into dollar bills. Laid end to end, the Bills would stretch 3.8 million miles—to the moon and back over 8 times. They could paper over all of Manhattan 7 times, or be stacked 2,690 miles high—watch out for satellites. They would weigh 40,000 tons—100 times the weight of one of those 747s he bought above.

But one thing Marcus says Bill can't do is even dent the national debt. Should he selflessly donate his stock to the U.S. treasury, he would reduce the \$5.37 trillion national debt by well under 1%. It's nice to put things in perspective.

—Internet

## Riddles!

1. The maker doesn't want it; the buyer doesn't use it; and the user doesn't see it. What is it?
2. A child is born in Boston, Massachusetts to parents who were both born in Boston, Massachusetts. The child is not a United States citizen. How is this possible?
3. Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on Earth?
4. Clara Clatter was born on December 27th, yet her birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?
5. Captain Frank and some of the boys were exchanging old war stories. Art Bragg offered one about how his grandfather led a battalion against a German division during World War I. Through brilliant maneuvers he defeated them and captured valuable territory. After the battle he was presented with a sword bearing the inscription "To Captain Bragg for Bravery, Daring and Leadership. World War I. From the Men of Battalion 8." Captain Frank looked at Art and said, "You really don't expect anyone to believe that yarn, do you?" What's wrong with the story?
6. What is one thing that all wise men, regardless of their religion or politics, agreed is between heaven and earth?
7. In what year did Christmas and New Year's fall in the same year?
8. A woman from New York married ten different men from that city, yet she did not break any laws. None of these men died and she never divorced. How was this possible?
9. Why are 1990 American dollar bills worth more than 1989 American dollar bills?
10. How many times can you subtract the number 5 from 25?
11. A taxi driver was called to take a group of passengers to the train station. The station is normally an hour away, but with traffic being extra heavy, it took a full hour and a half. On the return trip the traffic was still as heavy and yet it took only 90 minutes. Why?
12. How could you rearrange the letters in the words "new door" to make one word? Note: There is only one correct answer.
13. Even if they are starving, natives living in the Arctic will never eat a penguin's egg. Why not?
14. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?
15. In Okmulgee, Oklahoma, you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?
16. There were an electrician and a plumber waiting in line for admission to the "International Home Show". One of them was the father of the other's son. How could this be possible?

—Answers Next Month

**SELL and WANTS**

COMPUTER Speakers. Altec Lansing ACS160, great for games and multimedia, 3-piece including sub-woofer, like new. \$95. Contact Joe, K8OEF (810) 781-0050 eves.

EPSON Apex Action Printer L1000, 24 pin dot matrix printer. Excellent condition and works beautifully. Comes with tractor feed, as well as plain paper feed; owners manual and software. First \$30 takes it. Call Floyd at (248) 391-6660 or e-mail: hires@rust.net.

WANTED: Kenwood TS-50S in good working condition. Contact Floyd, W8RO, at (248) 391-6660 or e-mail: hires@rust.net

YAESU FT-736R satellite rig. 35W 2m and 440, 10W 6m module, FTS-8 tone board (installed), 100 memory locations, Packet ready, C.A.T. compatible. All manuals and factory packaging. Purchased new at last year's USECA swap. This rig brought in 50 2m SSB contacts at this year's USECA field day. Almost \$2400 invested, asking \$1900 or best. Contact Patrick, KC8HNO; (248) 682-5586 evenings; (248) 619-2232 days or e-mail: c172capt@aol.com

ZENITH AT compatible 640k memory 2 5-1/4 floppies with keyboard and monitor make offer. Intel 386 tower with 8 Mb of memory, 720k floppy and 40 Mb hard drive with keyboard and no monitor. Make offer. n8erv@tir.com; pager (810) 485-2118; (810)-324-6086.

★New this month.

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

The above column is for club members only and it's free!



**Still Going—Continued from Page 2**

Note that Dina, N8YJI (our designated "campout queen") has the preliminary information in this edition regarding the 1999 schedule. She's aware some people must know the dates early-on to schedule their vacations.

To all of you, have a very, very "Happy New Year!"  
73 for now.



**Meeting Minutes—Continued from Page 9**

Treasurer: Jim, N8OKW  
Secretary: Debbi, KB8YYB  
Membership: Mark, W8IR  
Board: Ann, KG8IF; Dave, KC8IAQ;  
Marianne, N8TMJ

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbi Cokewell, KB8YYB  
Recording Secretary

**Big Changes—Continued from Page 3**

these HF privileges, the CW privileges are seen to be self-limiting—if you don't know code, you can't use it—and if you do know it, then a 5 wpm test will be redundant! The ARRL also proposed ending the multiple choice Code exam and reinstating the "fill in the blanks" and/or "1 minute solid copy" exams and stiffening the "Medical Disability" code waiver requirements beyond 5 wpm (something many VEs feel is far too easily abused). (the above from QST 12/98 Pg. 49)

The National Conference of VECs (NCVEC, W5YI included), on the other hand, have also put forward their own suggestions for change. Their plan calls for only 3 license classes; Technician, General, and Extra. They've suggested keeping the Tech license privileges the same as the present No-code Tech (VHF/UHF only). Under their plan, the present Novice and Advanced bands would be reallocated to the General and Extra licensees and a 5 wpm exam would be the highest Code speed required for any HF license. The NCVEC suggests that the General written exam should stay pretty much the same, but under their plan, the Extra class exam would grow to 100 questions. (the above from World Radio, Pg. 15, 12/98)

Although I believe the above proposed changes are still several years away from actual implementation, these proposals, if instated, will change our licensing structure profoundly, and as a result, I'm sure, spark some heated arguments, for and against. Before you get into an argument over the changes, try to keep in mind the many changes that have occurred in Amateur Radio licensing in just the last 20 years—many of us licensed today would not be if we had to go through what some of the earliest hams did to get a license. Respect and honor those who preceded you down your own path into Amateur radio and they'll encourage you to follow.

Our license structure and requirements have been in a constant state of change since the inception of Ham Radio. If you'd like to comment to the ARRL, write to ARRL HQ, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, or visit their web site. The FCC also welcomes your comments via e-mail.

If you know of anyone even remotely interested in Amateur Radio, I'd tell 'em that **NOW** is the time to get a license! It seems pretty sure that anyone already licensed stands to gain under the changes proposed—why wait for a whole new set of exams?



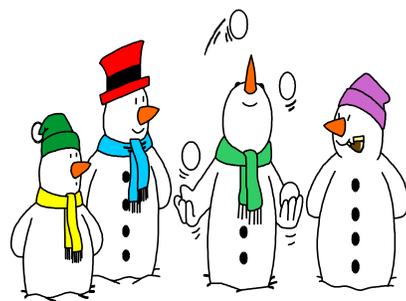
**Amateur Radio—Continued from Page 5**

Even while you read this, Orbiting Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio (O.S.C.A.R.), designed and built by Hams, are receiving and re-transmitting signals for global contacts. Some Amateurs even bounce their signals off of Moon for greater range!

But what is probably the most impressive of all is the Amateur's own motto, *The Amateur Code*.

**The Amateur Code:**

- ◆ **The Amateur is Considerate** — He never knowingly uses the air in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
  - ◆ **The Amateur is Loyal** — He offers loyalty, encouragement and support to his fellow Amateurs, his local club and to the Amateur Radio Relay League, through which he is represented.
  - ◆ **The Amateur is Progressive** — He keeps his station abreast of science. It is well built and efficient. His operating practice is beyond reproach.
  - ◆ **The Amateur is Friendly** — Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and council to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others; these are marks of the Amateur spirit.
  - ◆ **The Amateur is Balanced** — Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he owes to his job, his school, his community or his home.
  - ◆ **The Amateur is Patriotic** — His knowledge and his station are always ready for the service of his country and his community.
- By now it should be clear that the Radio Amateur is an individual who is dedicated to science and to his community.



**NAME BADGES**

With The *OFFICIAL* USECA Logo

Contact Debbi, KB8YYB: (810) 263-0227

## Field Day Kitchen '99

Delphine, KC8JSH

Peggy, KC8IAO and I want to wish you and yours a most Happy New Year.

The time is quickly approaching to start asking for your help in making Field Day Kitchen '99 a success. We are in the process of making a chore list that will detail what help is needed. It will range from set-up to garbage detail, pop can return, dish washing, coffee making, and meal serving just to name a few. We are striving to make "work" in the kitchen a "fun" experience. But, without YOUR help this cannot be accomplished.

Please make our job easier and don't wait to be asked . . . volunteer.

This month's recipe comes from our membership secretary, Mark, W8IR. If you have a recipe that you would like to share with us, please contact me.

### SUPER SLIDERS

1 lb. Ground beef  
 ½ can Beef Broth  
 1 jar Gerber Strained Beef or Veal  
 About one cup of dried onions (after soaking in water)  
 Onion salt  
 Hot dog buns

Mix together first three ingredients; form them into thin patties. About one tablespoon mixture for each patty.

Into a HOT skillet put patties and add onions and onion salt. Meantime cut hot dogs in half and lay on top of patties like they do at W.C.

When complete, they should taste like the "real thing."

Please do not hesitate to have your recipe published in the "Express."



### Transmission Line

## What Does RG Signify?

Coaxial cable has been in use for more than a half century, but many misconceptions still exist about how it works and what it does. Perhaps the best place to start is to review the history of this popular transmission line and why 50-ohm coax has become the most popular not only for amateurs, but for commercial, government, military and broadcast users.

According to the information published by the Bird Wattmeter Co, the decision to standardize on 50 ohms (in some cases 51.5 or 52 ohms) was made by the U. S. Navy based on the sizes and avail-

ability of copper pipe and tubing during WW-II. They needed a quick source for manufacturing coax line and going with standard dimension materials was the fastest way.

During these pioneer days of coax, they realized it needed some kind of designation everybody would easily recognize. So they came up with RG as the prefix. What does RG signify? Why, RADIO GUIDE, of course. It could be compared to wave guide used for microwave frequencies as both of them guide RF energy from one place to another.

—ARNS, December 1998

## USECA VE Testing

Examinations for an Amateur License are held the on the first Saturday of each month (except July and August). Starting time is 7:15 p.m. — please do not arrive earlier. Walk-ins are welcomed. Pre-registration is preferred. Test site is at the Salvation Army, 55 Church, 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. For more information and directions to the test site, call Bill, N8SA at: (810) 468-8345; (before 9:00 p.m.).



Jackets—\$45.00 • Sweatshirts—\$25.00  
 Polo Shirts—\$22.00 • Caps—\$6.00  
 (2X & 3X—Additional Charge)  
**Contact: Richard, KB8WTH**  
**At Meetings or Phone (810) 791-4669**

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 Donald Bemis Junior High School, 12500 Nineteen Mile Road (between Schoenherr and Clinton River Road), Sterling Heights, 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. To get a message to the Board or the Membership Secretary, please call our answering machine at: (810) 268-6730. The awards for "Excellent" (1994) and three times "Superior" (1995, 1996 and 1997) were received from ARNS (Amateur Radio News Service).

# USECA APPLICATION



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

Rev. 12/98

## FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

|   |             |   |             |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|
| CALL _____  | CLASS _____ | CALL _____  | CLASS _____ |
| NAME _____  |             | NAME _____  |             |
| BIRTHDATE _____   |             | BIRTHDATE _____   |             |
| MEMBER: ARRL <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |             | MEMBER: ARRL <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |             |
| RACES <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO        |             | RACES <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO        |             |

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



## 2-Meter LANs

### Local Area Nets

| DAY     | TIME     | CLUB                        | FREQ.   |
|---------|----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| SUN     | 1:00 pm  | USECA/Information           | 147.180 |
| SUN     | 8:00 pm  | SPIRIT of '76/Traders       | 146.760 |
| SUN     | 9:00 pm  | HPARC/DART                  | 146.640 |
| SUN     | 9:00 pm  | Garden City ARC             | 146.860 |
| SUN-SAT | 10:15 pm | S. E. Michigan Traffic Net  | 145.330 |
| MON     | 8:00 pm  | MECA                        | 147.200 |
| MON     | 9:00 pm  | USECA/Slow Code             | 147.180 |
| TUE     | 8:00 pm  | USECA/Information           | 147.180 |
| TUE     | 9:00 pm  | Motor City Radio Club       | 147.240 |
| WED     | 8:00 pm  | GMARC                       | 146.700 |
| WED     | 8:00 pm  | SPIRIT of '76/Info./Traders | 146.760 |
| WED     | 8:00 pm  | SMART/ARPSC                 | 147.140 |
| WED     | 9:00 pm  | MICHIGAN QRP                | 145.170 |
| THU     | 7:00 pm  | HPARC/Kids                  | 146.640 |
| THU     | 8:00 pm  | EDISON/Information          | 145.330 |
| THU     | 9:00 pm  | SATERN                      | 147.180 |
| THU     | 9:00 pm  | ECHO                        | 147.080 |
| FRI     | Midnite  | USECA/Hoot Owl              | 147.180 |

## On The World Wide Web

### USECA Home Page

<http://members.home.net/dougk/useca.htm>

## Net Ops Schedules

### 2-METER NETS

|      | SUN. 1 PM   | MON. 9 PM** | TUES. 8 PM  | FRI. MIDNIGHT |
|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| WEEK | 147.180 MHz | 147.180 MHz | 147.180 MHz | 147.180 MHz   |
| 1    | KG8IF       | N8OEF       | K8QLM       | KC8KJM        |
| 2    | W8IR        | W1IK        | -OPEN-      | KC8HMM        |
| 3    | K8QLM       | N8OEF       | KC8IAP      | -OPEN-        |
| 4    | AB8BT       | W1IK        | KF8HT       | KC8IAQ        |
| 5*   | KF8HT       | N8OEF       | -OPEN-      | KC8HYU        |

\*\*Slow Code

### HF NETS

|      | THURS. 9 PM   | FRI. 10 PM    | FRI. 11 PM     |
|------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| WEEK | 21.140 MHz/CW | 21.140 MHz/CW | 28.425 MHz/USB |
| 1    | FILLED        | -OPEN-        | -OPEN-         |
| 2    | FILLED        | K8QLM         | KA2IBE         |
| 3    | FILLED        | KC8IAQ        | K8QLM          |
| 4    | FILLED        | -OPEN-        | KC8IAQ         |
| 5*   | FILLED        | -OPEN-        | -OPEN-         |

\*If applicable

NCO's—If you are unable to take your net,  
 please get a replacement or contact Dave, KC8IAQ.

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

# USECA

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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**JANUARY 1999**

## "The Happenin' Club"

### Club Activities

| MONTH | DATE  | TIME    | EVENT                    |
|-------|-------|---------|--------------------------|
| JAN   | 12    | 7:30 pm | General Meeting          |
| FEB   | 9     | 7:30 pm | *General Meeting         |
| MAR   | 9     | 7:30 pm | General Meeting          |
| APR   | 13    | 7:30 pm | General Meeting          |
| APR   | 25    | 6:30 am | WalkAmerica              |
| MAY   | TBD   | 9:00 am | 9th Annual 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   | TBD   |         | Trash-For-Cash           |
| JUN   | 26-27 |         | Field Day                |

\*At Salvation Army.

### January Meeting Hosts

Richard, K8QLM  
Janice, KC8HMG

## Where's The Swaps?

| Day | Month | Date | Where      |
|-----|-------|------|------------|
| SAT | JAN   | 16   | Flint      |
| SUN | JAN   | 17   | Hazel Park |

Source: QRV Bulletin & QST

### 6-METER NETS

|      | WED 7 PM       | WED 8 PM      |
|------|----------------|---------------|
| WEEK | 50.130 MHz/USB | 51.740 MHz/FM |
| 1    | KC8JMP         | KC8JMP        |
| 2    | K8QLM          | K8QLM         |
| 3    | N8YBY          | KC8HYU        |
| 4    | W8VB           | W8VB          |
| 5*   |                |               |

\*If applicable

NCO's—If you are unable to take your net,  
please get a replacement or contact Dave, KC8IAQ.