



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 21, Number 1, January 2005

Election:

Club Officers

The following are the results of the December elections — your new officers for 2005:

President

Jim, W1IK

Vice President

Scott, WN1B

Recording Secretary

Ann, KT8F

Treasurer

Dennis, W8DFG

Membership Secretary

Ken, KW8Z

Board Members

George, K8GEO

Joe, N8OZ

Fred, W1SKU



Battery Dilemma

Dick, AF8X

My involvement with portable QRP operation led me to search for some comprehensive battery information. Years ago there wasn't much of a choice, but now there are so many choices: Alkaline, NiCds, NiMh, lead acid, and the newer Lithium-Ion and Lithium-Polymer cells. Each has their advantages and disadvantages. I preferred rechargeable batteries and have tried all of the battery types in that category. The more I read, the more confused I became as to which would best serve my purpose.

I have had a lot of experience with NiCd batteries during the pursuit of my radio control airplane hobby, so I felt comfortable using them, but keeping them charged, ready for use has it's problems. We've all read about the dreaded "memory effect" associated with NiCds. It is recommended that you discharge them completely every few cycles to prevent "memory effect."

I turned to NiMH cells, which are claimed not to be troubled by the memory effect. They do have a high rate of self-discharge though, so the full charge is not retained for a very long period. Both NiCds and NiMh cells are only rated at 1.2-volts, so more cells are needed to build a 12-volt pack.

I have several sizes of 12-volt lead-acid gel cell batteries, which are very serviceable and hold a charge well, however they are very heavy for their size.

—Continued on Page 9

De-Gauss with Kraus

Pat Cavanaugh KC8HYS

By the time this article is published all of the most important occurrence of the year will have passed and the decision that we have all been waiting for will be history. Yes, the football matchups of U of M and OSU will all have reached a conclusion. This year was certainly exciting and the outcome of this game is never certain. But what else besides football could be a linking factor between these great schools and their respective cities and fans? Well if you had a chance to look at page 96 of the October issue of QST you might have noticed that the inventor of the 8JK antenna has passed into the ranks of the silent keys and he, Dr. John Kraus, was one of those people who felt at home in Columbus, Ann Arbor and on the amateur air waves. First known a 8AFJ and later as W8JK, John Kraus was born and schooled in Ann Arbor and was later to become Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering at the Ohio State University.

While one is saddened by the passing of such a great man and acquaintance, I have to smile when I reflect on the richness of his life and his many accomplishments. His interest in long distance communications started at the age of 12 when he and a friend built a tin can telephone with soup cans and string but he soon graduated to amateur radio in the mid 1920's.

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Next Meeting — January 11

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Jim Wickstrom/W11K (586) 771-4135
 Vice President Scott Madison/WN1B (248) 628-4756
 Recording Secretary Ann Manor/KT8F, (586) 751-3893
 Treasurer Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
 Membership Secretary Ken Cassale/KW8Z (586) 598-0068
 Past President Nancy Carr/KB8QMS, (586) 749-3383

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

George Schutte/K8GEO (248) 393-4030
 Joe Kennedy/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
 Fred Holmes/W1SKU (248) 693-3638



COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison Phil/W8IC (586) 751-3893
 Awards Manager Tom/KC8LOC (248) 542-3340
 Door Prizes Dina/N8YJI (586) 825-6182
 Editor Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
 Field Day Chair Phil/W8IC & Ann/KT8F (586) 751-3893
 Health & Welfare Charlene Gracey (586) 777-2954
 Historian Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
 Liaisons George/K8GEO & Mike N5WCS
 Mailers/Sorters Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
 Net Manager Brian/KC8DIR (586) 749-4561
 Photographer Richard/K8QLM (586) 731-4475
 Program Director Scott/WN1B (248) 628-4756
 Public Relations Officer Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
 Refreshments Don/KC8CPT & Richard/KC8HJM
 Repeater Trustee Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
 Swap & Shop Scott/WN1B (248) 628-4756
 Technical Director Floyd/W8RO (248) 391-6660
 Technicians WN1B; K8FT; WA8GQL; KC8IAQ; W11K;
 N8KLX; AD8S; N8SA
 VE Testing Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

Scott/WN1B* Jim/W11K* Floyd/W8RO*
 Dennis/W8DFG* Joe/K8OEF* Dave/AD8S
 Dave/KC8IAQ Joe/N8OZ*
 Phil/W8IC* Nancy/KB8QMS*

PROGRAMMERS

Dennis/W8DFG Dave/KC8IAQ

SILENT KEYS

Len Czapiewski/K8DHH	Stuart Satrun/KW8K	Vance Dupuis/WB8QNI
Art Sheff/WD8EGV	Rick Parady/KB8KLW	Dave Martin/W8VB
Joe Lucido/NU8F	John Moore/KA8KTV	Harry Young/W8VRW
Charles Smith/N8FWF	John Palmer/WD8LBH	Velma Ragon/N8YVC
Clarence Ringo/W8HQO	Joe Palson/WD8MFN	John Tomlins/KG8YX
Joe Steel/KA8IZM	John Pizzuti/WB8NHT	

f=Founder c=Charter h=Hon. Charter

N8AWV h	N8HCT f c	WB8OSF h
KA8BDG c	KA8IZM f c SK	K8QLM f c
N8BK h	KA8KTV f c SK	WB8QNI c SK
N8FDN c	G. Manquardt h	KA8VYV h
N8FNO f c	WD8MFN f c	WA8VZZ c SK

J. Ha **Michigan's . . .**

BEST-IN-CLASS!

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

In case you didn't attend the December meeting, the announcement from the (entire) editorial staff awarded a *Golden Crystal* award to the following for giving our club their time and talents to help maintain the leadership and well-being of our club:

Dave, KC8IAQ, Vice President who gave countless hours to our club especially in the field of our web page(s).

Mary, KC8IAP, Membership Secretary; she did more than just collect our dues and maintain the databases; you ought to see her in action when it comes time for ideas; i.e., on our swap and our by-laws committee.

Delphine, KC8JSH, Treasurer; her and her husband's health were a strain on her and she always held a tight rein on our funds; balancing the books is not an easy job.

Jerry, N8KLX, Board Member who experienced a major career change recently, but found the time to closely work on our Field Day events including the logging software he wrote—and the handling the "Deal of the Century" containing all our *Express*'.

Richard, K8QLM a founder and charter member of our club whose health caused him to give up being one the best net control operator I've known.

A big thank you to all of you—USECA thanks you for all you've done!

Good luck to all newly elected club officials. 73 for now.

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My Early Days In The Hobby

By Doug Kaherl, K8DK

My dad was a radio technician. He had a radio shack (Quonset Hut) on our property in New Baltimore, MI. He repaired televisions and radios in the late 1940 and early 1950's. With no formal training, he learned to repair equipment on his own. I was very young 5 or 6 years old when I watched him repair radios and televisions. It was interesting to me and he taught me how to test tubes and I became the unofficial tube tester. I would pull the tubes from the piece of equipment, clean them, look up the tube numbers on the charts and found the correct socket to set them into the tube tester. The tube testers we used looked so complicated to me but soon I learned how to set the different toggle switches and set the correct voltages to properly test them. If they tested ok, I would install them back into the piece of equipment. If it was bad, I pulled a new tube from the inventory or added them to the list to order new ones to replenish the inventory. My dad would test the rest of the circuits for other failed parts such as resistors and capacitors, and transformers. He also checked for bad solder connections. He always returned the equipment repaired in good running order. This was my dad's way of supplementing his income because this was his part time job.

This experience of working in the repair shop got me started in electronics and interested in Amateur Radio. I was about 15 when a tornado came through Chesterfield Township. One day after the cleanup started I was peddling my bike on Callens Road near the military housing project north of Cotton Road. Since my dad was into electronics he also had a CB radio and I used to talk to a man by the name of Arnold Gottschalk, call sign 19W9224. He also held an amateur call sign of WA8TPE. Arnold told me he was a carpenter working for Selfridge Field and was working at this military housing project that was being repaired from the tornado. Arnold befriended me and we became lifetime friends. He and I used to trade, buy and sell amateur radio equipment. It is sad but

Arnold is now a silent key. I have many great memories of him. Many hams in the area knew him. He loved talking about finding amateur radio gear at garage sales. He had an expert eye for finding the deal.

Arnold then introduced me to a friend of his by the name of Ken Traster, K8CQI. Ken lived in Utica and was in the Air Force at Selfridge AFB. Ken would invite me to his home every Saturday morning where I had the opportunity to operate his station as a third party (Ken was the control operator) using 40 meter AM phone. Ken had a Central Electronics Transmitter and a Collins Receiver. What really interested me at the time was Ken's ability to use Morse code with his homebrew keyer and his paddle. He also at times used a straight key with expertise. Ken in turn introduced me to others in the area. Saturday mornings became a regular time when 4 or 5 others would gather to operate the equipment and contact other stations on 40 meters. Another friend, nickname Fats, had a Heathkit Station that he built a DX60 transmitter and a HR-10 matching receiver. Fats also had a DX100 transmitter with a SB-10 sideband adapter and a Hamerlund receiver as a second station. We would go back and forth between the two houses on Saturdays. It was a great time and it was exciting listening for other stations and making contacts. Ken and others taught me how to set up a station, tune a transmitter; zero beat a receiver and I learned the technique of soldering. At this point I decided I wanted my license too.

I started by learning Morse code. Months before I was licensed I bought the Ameco Code record album, 33-1/3 size. I started to learn the code using the code album but I set the record player at 78 RPM speed (in error of course and not knowing any better). I learned the code at a much faster speed than most people. I didn't realize at the time what I was doing because I kept complaining to my parents this is so hard to learn because it sounded so fast. They didn't really check what I was doing so they just

said keep at it, everyone else learns it like that and you can to. So I did. I was the fastest novice on the band. I learned the code at about 25-35 wpm. Good thing I didn't know any better. Sometimes ignorance is bliss. Being an idiot at the time gave me an advantage over so many other novices. The only problem I had was finding someone to talk to me in the novice band at those speeds. So I learned to slow down. I made hundreds of contacts over the next several months and was having a lot of fun doing it too.

Back then a General Class operator could administer a novice test. Ken requested a novice exam from the FCC. I remember it seemed like it took forever to receive the test in the mail. I studied for the exam for a month or so and was ready when Ken received the test. There were four of us that took the exam. It took about three months waiting for my ticket to arrive. If you didn't get a letter from the FCC in about a month you probably passed. I knew others who failed and were notified by letter within 30 days. If you didn't pass your test you had to wait 30 days after receiving your failure letter before taking the exam again. I didn't hear from them so I thought my chances sounded pretty good that I passed. Well as I said three months went by and I received my novice call, WN8QHS in April 1965. The four of us all passed, we now had new call signs of, WN8QHS, QHT, QHU and QHV.

-Cont'd. Page.8

USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting— December 7, 2004

In attendance:

*W1IK, Jim	President
KC8IAQ, Dave	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KC8IAP, Mary	Membership Secretary
*KC8JSH, Delphine	Treasurer
WN1B, Scott	Board Member
W8DFG, Dennis	Board Member
*N8KLX, Jerry	Board Member
*KB8QMS, Nancy	Past President
*Absent	



Meeting called to order by the Vice President at: 7:32 PM

Motion to accept the minutes of the last BOD meeting made by, Dennis, W8DFG 2nd by Mary, KC8IAP, motion carried.

No Treasurer's report.

Membership: Mary, KC8IAP: 197 minutes. Has absentee ballots available for the election.

Webmaster: Dave, KC8IAQ: no report.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – no report.

Technical: Scott, WN1B – north site was up briefly, but crashed again for unknown reason. Might be a power issue. Will check into it.

ARRL – report given by Phil, W8IC. 1 new membership through the club. Please renew your membership through the club – unless you have a family membership.

Club Liaison: George, K8GEO gave report. See activities listed elsewhere in this issue.

Trustee Report: given by Dennis, W8DFG. No report.

Christmas party report given by Ann, KT8F.

Health and Welfare: report given by Walt, WB8E.

Ann, KT8F, made a motion that the meeting be adjourned 2nd by Dennis, W8DFG at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary



General Meeting—December 14, 2004

In attendance:

W1IK, Jim	President
*KC8IAQ, Dave	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
*KC8IAP, Mary	Membership Secretary
*KC8JSH, Delphine	Treasurer
WN1B, Scott	Board Member
W8DFG, Dennis	Board Member
*N8KLX, Jerry	Board Member
*KB8QMS, Nancy	Past President
*Absent	

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

Introductions made. Visitors welcomed, upgrades recognized.

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Mike, N5WCS and 2nd by George, K8GEO, minutes amended to state: Jim, W1IK stated CW training nets are now in session; also, Scott, WN1B stated a clarification was needed on training – his CD compiled from "Now You're Talking" is meant for entry level students seeking their Technician license. Motion then carried.

Membership report provided by Dennis, W8DFG – 197 members.

No Treasurer's report.

Express: Joe, K8OEF thanked several members, including departing board members, for their outstanding service to our club. Many thanks to: Richard, K8QLM, founder, charter member, and dedicated net control operator; Jerry, N8KLX, board member; Delphine, KC8JSH, treasurer; Mary, KC8IAP, membership secretary; and Dave, KC8IAQ, vice-president.

Technical: Floyd, W8RO stated the north site is now working fine. The Detroit site is coming along. The equipment for the new downtown site is being worked on at this time. Still looking for a solution to fix the interference at the Mt. Clemens site.

TACOM will be receiving their replacement 2 meter receive antenna in January.

ARRL, Phil – the fight continues on BPL. If you are seeking a new ARRL membership or renewing yours, please do it through the club as we get subsidized. See Phil to arrange paying your dues.

MiARC – Dennis, W8DFG – Reported on the December meeting and stated membership dues are now due for 2005.

Health & Welfare: Walt, W8RO reported that Char is taking good care of this job.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Mary, KC8IAP on the recent loss of her mother.

Interclub Liaisons – George, K8GEO reported on upcoming events. A list will be published in this newsletter.

Jim, W1IK is still looking for more CW training instructors. Contact Jim at: w1ik@k8uo.com.

Jim, W1IK stated the Christmas party was a great success. He provided a slide show depicting the fun.

Scott, WN1B is requesting suggestions and ideas for upcoming programs.

Floyd, W8RO, opened the elections by introducing the candidates and opened nominations for any other candidates. None were elected.

—Continued on Page 7

Cryptology

Dick Arnold, AF8X

I HAD INTENDED ON writing an article about a subject that fascinates me—cryptology—however during my research I discovered that all but the very simplest ciphers were beyond my comprehension. So instead I will tell where to find information about cryptology and allow you to investigate for yourselves.

In grade school a couple of classmates and myself used to pass notes in class, a no-no in most schools. After being caught in the act and embarrassed by the teacher reading a very personal message, we decided to write our messages in code. We used pretty simple codes, substituting numbers for letters, etc. But it was enough to confound the teacher enough to keep them from being read aloud to the rest of the class.

Cryptology is not new. Julius Caesar used a simple code to communicate with his armies. The Caesar-Cipher basically shifted every plain text letter by three places (a=d; b=e; c=f; etc.) Since that time ciphers have evolved into mathematical puzzles that can only be broken by the use of computers. Even today there are clandestine radio transmissions in CW and phone sending five letter

code groups. These messages are the source of entertainment to groups of listeners who log and try to break the codes. There is a wealth of information on the Internet on code breaking and secret transmission times and frequencies.

I have always enjoyed spy stories and tales of code breakers. The movies, *ENIGMA* and *A BEAUTIFUL MIND* are two great movies showing the complexities of ciphers. This site (<http://www.fiu.edu/~mizrachs/SW-numbers.html>) has information on clandestine code group transmissions and this site: (<http://www.vector.site.net/ttcode.html>) shows various codes and code breaking methods.

If you are good at puzzles and math, perhaps cryptology would offer more of a challenge than the Times crossword puzzle. There are downloadable tools on the Internet to aid in decryption and even a working cyber Enigma machine. **WARNING** Once you get a taste of cryptology, it's like chocolate—hard to leave it alone.

December 7, 2004

City Can't Skewer Ham Tower

Wheaton, IL will have its first ham radio tower despite the objections of more than 100 residents.

City officials granted John Siepmann a building permit for a 40-foot tower after exhausting all efforts to block its construction. The tower will be built in the middle of his back yard.

City Attorney James Knippen told council members Monday night that the city had no choice but to grant

His application simmered for months while the city consulted law firms, structural engineers and technicians familiar with ham towers. The effort was in hopes of blocking the tower or limiting the height of it as much as possible.

Although the city found the idea of the tower and federal laws protecting its construction "disagreeable and distasteful," all the efforts did was confirm the city's fears that it couldn't do much, Knippen said.

He told council members most municipalities have local ordinances allowing ham towers of at least 60 feet. So,

the permit as the city would have lost any lawsuit over the matter.

The authority to build ham radio towers is granted by the federal government, which supersedes any local controls municipalities have on the subject.

"We essentially had no legal defense," Knippen said.

That's bad news for Siepmann's neighbors in the Farnham neighborhood. They put up "No Radio Tower" signs in their front yards once the details of Siepmann's plans came out.

In essence, Wheaton is lucky to limit the tower height to 40 feet, Knippen said.

However, the remaining question is what happens if Siepmann builds the tower and discovers the clarity of his reception isn't high enough for his needs. Siepmann's attorney has already said that he wouldn't rule out the possibility of his client coming back to the city for permission to increase the height of the tower.

City Manager Don Rose said he didn't know what the city's options would be to fight the increase if that happens.

—Internet

USECA Club Liaison

- 11-Jan-05 Technician Level license classes on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 PM for ten weeks. Sponsored by Hazel Park ARC; contact Jeff Albrecht, N8WR, n8wr@arrl.net
- 16-Jan-05 HAZEL PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Swap and Shop; Hazel Park High School, Hazel Park, MI.; contact Sean, K8KHZ, 248-691-1130
- 24-Jan-05 L'Anse Creuse/Mount Clemens Community Program is offering two classes; Morse Code at 6:45 to 7:25 PM, and Technician License Class from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. Contact Diane Lobbestael, (586) 783-6330.
- 2-May-05
- 12-Feb-05 Cherryland ARC, Swap-N Shop, Traverse City, Phone (231) 947 8555.
- 13-Feb-05 Livonia Amateur Radio Club Swap, at William M. Costic Center on 11 Mile Rd. Farmington, MI
- 19-Feb-05 Ham University, two day intensive course to prepare for Technician Class test, at Bldg. H, Macomb County Community College Campus, M-59 & Garfield, contact wn1b@k8uo.com
- 20-Feb-05
- 19-Mar-05 Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall High School, Marshall, MI. Phone (269)962 2006
- 19-Mar-05 ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention, sponsored by Toledo Mobile Radio Association, at The Holliday Inn, Phone (419) 865-1361 for room reservations and rates. Info: www.tmrahamradio.org
- 20-Mar-05 Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest, at Lucas County Recreation Center. Info: www.tmrahamradio.org
- 16-Apr-05 Milford ARC Swap-n-Shop, at Milford High School, 2380 Milford Rd. Highland MI.; www.qsl.net/w8ydx; Talk-in 145.49- 67 Hz PL

If we have missed anything or some noteworthy event, please let us know.
Our E-Mail addresses are k8geo@arrl.net and n5wcs@arrl.net

Submitted by George K8GEO and Mike N5WCS

STAY RADIOACTIVE!

De-Gauss with Kraus—From Page 1

He worked the world with 10 watts from a transmitter that derived its high voltage direct current from a home built rectifier made of canning jars filled with boric acid solution and connected by metal strips of aluminum and lead. In his later years he was a pioneer of radio-telescope design and the father of the "Big Ear" radio-telescope located in Ohio north of Columbus where he tracked and identified celestial bodies from the edge of the universe. I recall his comments complaining of the radio frequency noise from the nearby highway that inhibited the effectiveness of some of his equipment. At least he didn't have to worry about BPL!

He became world famous in 1937 when he invented the 8JK antenna and gave it to the amateur radio community through an article titled "Small but Effective Flat-Top Beam" in "Radio" magazine. He was soon deluged with mail asking for advice and information regarding his invention and his call became a household word around amateur radio operators. Kraus also is known for inventing the helical antenna, a corkscrew-shaped antenna that is used in global-positioning satellites. He is also credited for the invention of the corner reflector antenna.

During World War II Dr. Kraus was attached to the Naval Ordinance Lab and his expertise in the area of magnetism was directed toward the protection of ships from magnetic mines. The NOL came up with a way to neutralize the magnetic field of the ship using degaussing coils. John Kraus worked to design and build all of the sensory equipment for tuning the magnetic characteristics of ships so that magnetically triggered weapons would not sense the target. After the degaussing coils were installed each ship was required to pass by the sensors manned by Dr. Kraus and his team to adjust the field. "Degauss with Kraus" became a common term among the sailors in Chesapeake Bay.

I met John Kraus in 1968 at Ohio State while taking the mandatory Electromagnetics course that used a book of the same name authored by, none other than, J.D. Kraus. My major was Power Systems so I took no other EM courses (I never could figure out how all of that stuff worked) but I was clued in to take this course from Dr. Kraus by several of amateur radio upperclassmen acquaintances. It was certainly worth the wait. It was sort of like getting the information from the source rather than second hand. He was able to cover the entire book, 604 pages, in ten weeks while keeping the class interesting through stories and practical discussions. Several years ago a few dusty brain cells lit up while I was explaining the workings of the stealth fighter plane to my son. I recalled a discussion that I had in Dr. Kraus' class regarding the impedance of free space and a question that I asked Dr. Kraus regarding the possibility of fabricating a material with that same characteristic for the purpose of defeating radar. I recall that he cut that discussion quite short, uncharacteristically, and I since have wondered if he might have then been working on the research that ultimately led to stealth technology. He certainly was respected by our government and was at one time assigned to a group of scientists that included Albert Einstein.

John had the practice of inviting his class to his home during the Christmas season and, of course, his ham shack was one of the main attractions. The evening of my visit Dr. Kraus casually showed us an estimate of the diameter of the earth's ionospheric layer by sending a pulse around the world and picking it up on the back of the beam antenna by timing the signals on a scope. After several experiments he then signed out with his W8JK call sign.

W8JK SK

Meeting Minutes—From Page 4

Dennis, W8RO made a motion that the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the Officer positions, since they are all unopposed. 2nd by Bob, AB8TS, motion carried. Voting is to be for the Board members at large only.

Ballots were distributed and voting commenced during the break.

Results - 2005 slate:

President: Jim, W1IK

Vice-President: Scott, WN1B

Recording Secretary: Ann, KT8F

Treasurer: Dennis, W8DFG

Membership Secretary: Ken, KW8Z

Board Member: George, K8GEO

Board Member: Fred, W1SKU

Board Member: Joe, N8OZ

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary

My Early Days—From Page 3

I had little money to work with and so I started saving and my parents helped me buy my first station. It was a Hallicrafters Receiver SX-99, a Knight Kit T-150 transmitter and a Dow Key relay. I also bought a paddle from the Lafayette Radio catalog and Ken helped me build my first homebrew project, a tube type keyer. The transmitter had a VFO but I was rock bound (crystal controlled) and could only use crystals in the novice bands and no more than 75 watts. My first antenna was a multi-band dipole for 40 and 15 meters. This was good because I only had two crystals for 40 meters. I could use the crystal for 7.125 MHz on 40 meters and the 7.050 crystal on 15 meters because it's third harmonic put me in the 15-meter band at 21.150 MHz. I made my first DX contact on 15 meters by working XE2SO in Mexico. I still have his QSL card. He sent me his QSL direct and I remember the day I received it in the mail. I was excited to make that first DX contact. I now have 254 countries confirmed. I chase DX on a periodic basis and track them using DxBase software on my computer.

The next couple projects I built were a Heathkit Twoer and a 160-meter transmitter. The twoer was a 2 meter AM transceiver. A novice had 2 meter phone privileges during those years. I also built a 160 mobile transmitter from the ARRL handbook and with Ken's help we detuned my AM radio in the dashboard of my car (1954 Ford Station Wagon Woody). Working 160 AM phone gave me the opportunity to meet others in the area. We didn't have 2 meter FM repeaters back then.

I wanted my General ticket. In less than a year from getting my novice license I upgraded to General and my new call sign was changed to WA8QHS. During those years the Novice license was good for one year and you couldn't renew it. So it was upgrade or out of amateur radio. It did however take two bus rides from New Baltimore to the Federal Building in Detroit to pass the test. I didn't drive yet, so I went by bus. I failed at my first attempt. It was very disappointing. I passed the

code but not the theory. You didn't get credit for passing the code in those days. The next trip, you had to pass the code again. The code was easy for me at 13 Wpm. I just had to get passed the written theory. The theory at that time was far more advanced electronics questions than on today's exam. An example would be to draw a Hartley or Pierce Oscillator circuit? Many other circuits had to be identified or drawn. I felt lucky to pass it on my second attempt. You also had to sit in a hard wood chair in the front of the room, in front of everyone to send and receive the code at 13 wpm while everyone sat there listening to your code expertise. It was intimidating at best, especially if you are only 15 years old. One of the examiners was Ed W8BX. Ed is still around and living in Grosse Pointe area. Every once in a while I still talk to him on the 440 bands.

Now I have been licensed 39 years and I am still having fun. Over those 39 years I have tried every mode except Slow Scan Television. I have used AM, FM, SSB, CW, Radio Teletype, Fast Scan TV, Moon bounce, Satellites all the different data modes. I had towers, a tri band beam, satellite antennas, elevation and azimuth rotors, lots and lots of different pieces of radio transceivers, and separate transmitters and receivers and all types of station accessories. I have incorporated computers and their related ham radio software programs to my station. I am still an avid short wave and scanner listener. My short wave call sign was WPE8IKB. I received that call sign certificate in December of 1963 from Popular Electronics.

Do a search in Google just using that call sign WPE8IKB and you will see a photo of my novice station from 1965. Over the years I had the opportunity to talk to, Barry Goldwater, Ronnie Milsap, and Arthur Godfrey. I talked to Russian Cosmonauts and Owen Garriot an American Astronaut thousand of miles above the earth in the space station. I talked to France on two meters via the moon. I talked to a station on a sailboat in the Yucatan Peninsula diving for lobsters and ran a phone patch to his sister in Ohio to let her know he was ok while traveling the globe. I helped

missionaries in Africa using the phone patch to keep in contact with friends and relatives. E-mail and cell phones wasn't heard of in those days. I have talked to people who used antennas from eaves troughs, underground antennas, attic antennas, fences and all types of configured arrays. These are just a few examples of the great memories and thousands of contacts I have made over the years.

If you have your license, keep using your privileges. You earned it. If you want to upgrade, don't give up. If I could pass the General exam in 1965, believe me the tests today are a snap in comparison.

Radio is fun, enjoy the privileges your currently are licensed for. I have many more stories. Look for me on the USECA repeater or on the bottom of 40 and 15-meter CW bands. They are still my favorites. CW is still fun and that is where I spend most of my airtime.

73,

Doug K8DK



Battery Dilemma—From Page 1

After amassing a collection of all different types of rechargeable batteries, I needed a charger for each type. I decided to contact the person who I think knows more about batteries than anyone on earth, Red Scholefield. Red has a web site¹ loaded with battery information and is happy to promptly answer your questions via email.

I emailed Red asking his advice on chargers. His reply came right back stating that in his opinion, for my use the Great Planes Triton computerized charger² would fill my needs nicely. This unit will charge all types of batteries at the correct rate and even allows for discharge to charge cycles handy for NiCds. The charge cycles for the

different cells are programmable and retained in memory. I bought a Triton and have been very happy with its performance for the past two years.

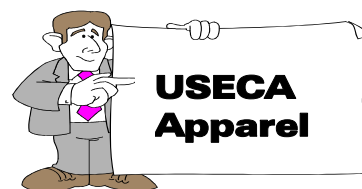
If you have any questions pertaining to battery power, let Red enlighten you with his expertise. Although his web site embraces the R/C hobby, it is but a small transition to amateur radio.

¹ <http://www.rcbatteryclinic.com/>

² <http://www.towerhobbies.com/products/greatplanes/gpmm3150.html>

USECA VE Testing

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



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

Net Point System

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

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

USECA Cork Board

▶ Radio Items ◀

For Sale: Cushcraft A270-10S, 2M/440 Yagi, 6' boom, 5 elements/band, vg condx, \$60. Cushcraft AR-6, 6M Ringo, 10' length, excellent condx, \$50. Regency R806 VHF scanner, xtal control, fair condx, \$10. E-mail Floyd, W8RO at: w8ro@k8uo.com or call (248) 431-7769.

ICOM Sound Card Interface. It's the kit of parts and circuit board to build the audio interface. About 95 percent of the parts are with it, it does not come in a kit. I ordered the parts from about three different sources. I did NOT order the case. I have well over \$100.00 in the parts and board, I do not need it anymore. Asking \$50. Contact Dan, WA8GQL at: radiodan@comcast.net.

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

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

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.

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

▶ Miscellaneous Items ◀

IMATION SuperDisk 120MB Parallel Port Drive. Will trade for anything for which I can find a use. Dick Arnold (586) 791 3595.

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

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

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

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

★FOR SALE

Kenwood R-5000 – HF receiver to 30 MHz, AM/FM/SSB/CW, digital display, looks just like a TS-440, original box and manual; \$390.

Yaesu FRG-8800 – HF receiver to 30 MHz, AM/FM/SSB/CW, digital display, original box and manual and service manual; \$330.

Kenwood R-2000 – HF receiver to 30 MHz, AM/FM/SSB/CW, digital display, original box and manual and service manual; \$300.

Hallicrafters SX-130 – HF receiver to 30 MHz, AM/SSB/CW, 1960's tube type, original owner's manual; \$125.

Kenwood TS-570DG –160-10M all band all mode HF rig with dual antenna jacks, DSP filtering, notch filter, slope tuning, cw "autotune," memories, optional 500 Hz cw filter included (may sell filter separately), "mars/cap" mod'd, mic, box, manual, clean non-smoker; \$800 firm.

Drake PRN-1000 – HF receiver to 30 MHz, AM only, digital display, keypad, original owners manual; \$120.

American Electrola DXC-100 – HF receiver to 30 MHz, AM/FM/SW, digital display and keypad, wooden case, long telescopic antenna and ext jack, original owners manual; \$120.

Kenwood S-599 – speaker, matches the 599 twins; \$60.

Yaesu FRT-7700 – pre-selector/tuner, two antenna inputs; \$60.

Ameco PLC-P – tunable pre-amp; \$25.

Ameco OCM – code practice oscillator; \$20.

Ameco HP-75T – high pass filter, 75 MHz cut-off; \$10.

MFJ MFJ-956 – tuner, two knobs, 2 SO-239's; \$30.

MFJ MFJ-959B – receiver antenna tuner, box and manual; \$60.

MFJ MFJ-1020A – active antenna, pre-amp, tuner, RCA antenna jacks, telescopic whip; \$50.

Archer 15-1113 – UHF/VHF/FM pre-amp, 110V; \$10.

Hallicrafters R-50 – SX-130 matching speaker, 1960's vintage; \$50.

Yaesu MH-34 – Speaker mic for Yaesu HT's, single pin 4-conductor style, rotatable lapel clip, like new; \$20.

Kenwood SMC-33 – Speaker-mic for Kenwood HT's, two-pin style, right angle connector, has the three programmable buttons across the top, lock switch on the back, rotatable lapel clip; \$45.

Kenwood Mic – For Kenwood mobile radios that use the phone-jack style mic connector, non-backlit DTMF keypad, has CALL VFO MR PF buttons across top, keypad numbers somewhat worn but readable; \$20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Duckies – UHF duck 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; \$4.

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

USECA Cork Board On The Web

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

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

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

USECA APPLICATION



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

Rev. 3/04 **ARRL** YES NO **RACES** YES NO

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

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

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

Annual Membership Dues Regular: \$20 — Family: \$30 — Auto-Patch: \$35 (One Time Fee) + Annual Dues
 Applications can be given to the Membership Secretary at monthly meeting or mailed.
 Please make check payable to: **USECA** — Address: **P.O. Box 46331, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046**
(Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.)

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



2-Meter LANs

Local Area Nets

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

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

WWW.USECA.NET



Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

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

**Traders/Helper Net

HF NETS

WEEK	THURS. 9 PM 21.140 MHz/CW	FRI. 10 PM 3.720 MHz/CW	FRI. 11 PM 28.425 MHz/USB
1	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	KC8LOC
2	WY8M	-OPEN-	KA2IBE
3	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	-OPEN-
4	-OPEN-	WB8E	-OPEN-
5*	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

*If applicable

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

USECA

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

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JANUARY 2005



"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
JAN	11	7:30 pm	General Meeting
FEB	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAR	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting
APR	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	TBA	7:30 pm	Pre-Field Day
MAY	20-22	7:30 pm	Dayton Hamvention
JUN	14	7:30 pm	General Meeting & Fox Hunt
JUN	24-26		Field Day

6-METER NETS

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

**If applicable*

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

Swaps — See Page 6

Name Badges

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