USECA EXPRESS

Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC. | Volume 22, Number 1, January 2006

Election:

Club Officers

The following are the results of the December election — your new officers for 2006:

President
Chuck, N8ZA

Vice President
Brad, N8VI

Recording Secretary
Ann, KT8F

Treasurer
Dennis, W8DFG

Membership Secretary
Ken, KW8Z

Board Members
Walt, WB8E
Phil, W8IC
Joe, N8OZ

Did You Know?

Alaska could lose the Northern Lights in the next 50 years due to the north magnetic pole's rapid drift away from North America and toward Siberia, researchers said at an American Geophysical Union meeting. Researchers say the Earth's magnetic poles migrate and oscillate, but don't know why it happens.

Portable Vertical Antenna

By Dick, AF8X

During our "Lark in the Park" operations, Walt [WB8E] usually hauls out a vertical antenna that requires some assembly and a stake in the ground to mount it on. This antenna plays pretty well, but as I have stated before, I like antennas that I can carry in my pocket and are quick to erect. After giving some thought to vertical antennas, I think I have a usable solution to an antenna that equals Walt's and yet can be carried in a pocket.

My design is based on a panel-mount SO 239 connector. As the picture shows, a 1/4-wave radiator is soldered to the center connection on the rear of the connector. Then four 1/4-wave counterpoise wires are connected to the four mounting holes on the connector base. PVC ring insulators are attached to the ends of all the wires allowing the radiator to be hoisted aloft by a string over a tree branch, and the counterpoise wires to be staked out therefore stabilizing the antenna. It is then fed with coax cable.

I make the PVC ring insulators by sawing through 3/4-inch PVC tubing at 3/8-inch intervals.

The radiator should be hoisted by a string connected to the PVC ring insulator until the connector is a few feet above ground level and the counterpoise wires run down and out on a shallow angle and staked with small spikes or pegs through the ring insulators.

[See pictures on page 8]

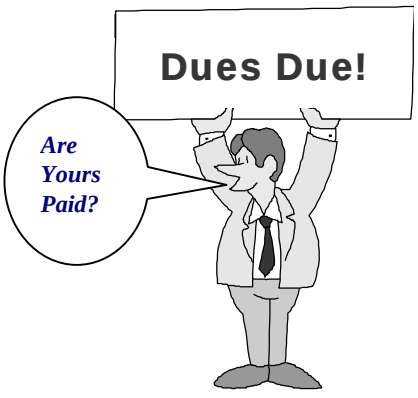
Eat B 4 U Meet

January's menu, and of course for a small nominal fee, we will serve Stadium Kielbasa, and Calico Beans starting at 6:00 PM.

Note: I would like to thank all the members who are attending the meetings for parking in the back section of the parking lot. At the request of the Elks, they would like to keep the front part open as much as possible for the Euchre players during the winter months.

See you there.

Dennis
Dah Food Guy



Next Meeting — January 10

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Chuck Perushek/N8ZA (586) 557-4983
Vice President	Brad Tarratt/N8VI (248) 506-7609
Recording Secretary	Ann Manor/KT8F (586) 751-3893
Treasurer	Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Membership Secretary	Ken Cassale/KW8Z (586) 552-8311
Board Member	Walt Gracey/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Board Member	Phil Manor/W8IC (586) 751-3893
Board Member	Joe Kennedy/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Past President	Jim Wickstrom/W1IK (586) 771-4135

COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison	Dave/W8RIT (810) 765-3745
Awards Manager	Arpad/WY8M (586) 751-3804
Door Prizes	–OPEN–
Editor	Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
Field Day Chair	Phil/W8IC & Ann/KT8F (586) 751-3893
Health & Welfare	Walt/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Liaison	Dave/KC8TTQ
Mailers/Sorters	Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
Net Manager	Brian/KC8DIR (586) 749-4561
Photographer	–OPEN–
Program Director	Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609
Public Relations Officer	Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
Refreshments	Walt/WB8E and Richard/KC8HMJ
Repeater Trustee	Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Swap & Shop	–OPEN–
Technical Director	Floyd/W8RO (248) 391-6660
Technicians	WN1B; W8IC; K8FT; WA8GQL; KC8IAQ; W1IK; AD8S; N8SA
VE Testing	Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Webmaster	Brad/N8VI

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

Scott/WN1B*	Jim/W1IK*	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	Richard Brege/K8QLM
Art Sheff/WD8EGV	Rick Parady/KB8KLW	Vance Dupuis/WB8QNI
Joe Lucido/NU8F	John Moore/KA8KTV	Dave Martin/W8VB
Charles Smith/N8FWF	John Palmer/WD8LBH	Harry Young/W8VRW
Clarence Ringo/W8HQO	Joe Palson/WD8MFN	Velma Ragon/N8YVC
Joe Steel/KA8IZM	John Pizzuti/WB8NHT	John Tomlins/KG8YX

f = Founder *c* = Charter *h* = Hon. Charter

N8AWV *h*	N8HCT *f c*	WB8OSF *h*
KA8BDG *c*	KA8IZM *f c* SK	K8QLM *f c* SK
N8BK *h*	KA8KTV *f c* SK	WB8QNI *c* SK
N8FDN *c*	G. Manquardt *h*	KA8VYV *h*
N8FNO *f c*	WD8MFN *f c*	WA8VZZ *c* SK
J. Haubner *c*	WB8NHT *f c* SK	

Michigan's . . .

BEST-IN-CLASS!

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

A New Year—2006!

Note the newly revised list of our Board of Directors.

Note—the USECA Application—the Board decided to eliminate (or temporarily suspend) the Auto-Patch.

An upcoming topic of discussion in our club will be the increasing of our dues—costs keep escalating and it may be time to make a change. The members will decide. So, keep the memberships up and perhaps there won't be an increase. Time will tell!

73 for now.

Inside This Issue

The Venerable Old Dipole

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

ONE OF THE FIRST antennas that the new ham learns about is the dipole. The dipole is a time proven excellent antenna, easy to make and erect and usually fed with coax. This antenna is probably the majority of hams first antenna, usually homebrewed using the formula 468/f (MHz). The result is divided evenly on either side of the center insulator and feed point of the antenna. This will give a close approximate length in feet of the resonate frequency of the dipole, however the length can be tweaked to resonate at the desired frequency within a few KCs or so. In determining how much to cut off or add to bring the antenna to the needed resonance, the following calculation will show frequency in units of measure.

To calculate the frequency change per unit of length of the ½ wave dipole.

Example: 80 meters 3.5 to 4.0 MHz

1. L = 468 / 4.0 MHz = 117 Feet
2. L = 468 / 3.5 MHz = 133.7 Feet
3. Difference in length 133.7 - 117 = 16.7 Feet
4. Frequency difference: 4000 KHz – 3500 KHz = 500 KHz

Calculate freq per unit length: 500 KHz / 16.7 Ft = 30 KHz per Foot

After determining and cutting the antenna for a certain frequency, it will perform quite well at that frequency, but as you move up or down, the SWR will raise to the point of making the antenna unusable. A tuner will help, but efficiency will suffer.

A more flexible solution might be to use ladder line as a feeder. The advantage of a balanced feed line is that the dipole length does not have to cut to a certain frequency and it is a very low loss feeder. Yes, a tuner is necessary and also balun if the tuner is not wired for balanced feeds. However an 88-foot dipole will cover 80 through 20 meters and if that is too long for your location, a 44-foot length will cover 40 through 10 meters.

Before coaxial cable became popular in the early 40s, antennas were usually fed with ladder line or a single conductor.

There are several styles of ladder line available commercially and of course, you can make your own. 300 ohm TV twinlead is useable, but fragile. The 300-ohm and 450-ohm ladder line would be a better choice. Home brewed ladder line was popular until the commercial versions became available. The 600-ohm open line is probably the best performer as it is not affected as much by rain or snow as the 300 and 450-ohm window line.

The open wire version is still available at a couple of outlets[i].

[i] www.vintagemanuals.com
www.w7fg.com

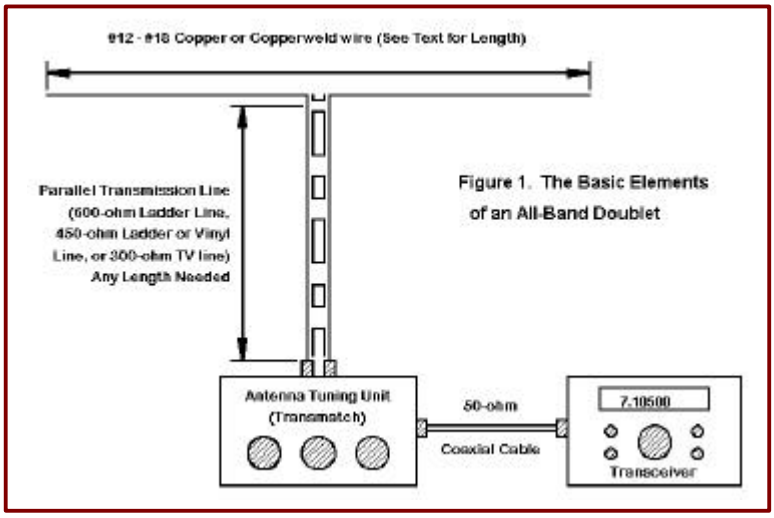
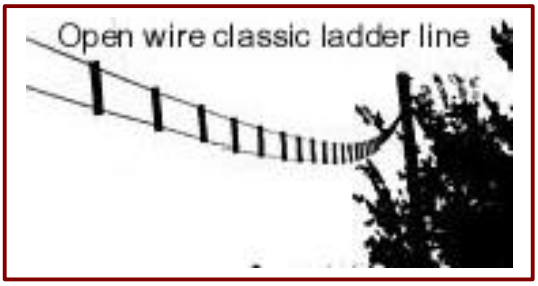


Figure 1. The Basic Elements of an All-Band Doublet



USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—December 6, 2005

In attendance:

W1IK, Jim	President
WN1B, Scott	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KW8Z, Ken	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
K8GEO, George	Board Member
N8OZ, Joe	Board Member
*W1SKU, Fred	Board Member
*KB8QMS, Nancy	Past President

*Absent

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

Motion to accept the minutes of the last BOD meeting made by George, K8GEO and 2nd by Ken, KW8Z, motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z – 194 members as of tonight.

Express: Joe, K8OEF, no report.

ARRL: no report.

Technical: Scott, WN1B – no change in the Mt. Clemens site. Will relocate antennas to the backside of the building. Getting closer on the downtown site. Utica site still disabled due to the voter needs more work.

Treasurer's report: Dennis, W8DFG. Motion to accept the treasurer's report made by Ann, KT8F and 2nd by George, K8GEO, motion carried.

Dennis made a motion that the BOD bring before the general membership a request to spend $325.00 on liability insurance, with coverage of $1,000,000. The request to be made at the December meeting. Motion 2nd by Scott, WN1B, discussion, motion carried.

MARC: Dennis W8DFG reported on the December 4 meeting.

Club liaison – George, K8GEO requested that he would like to give up the responsibility of keeping track of events and other club's info. If you attend other club meetings in the area and have information on upcoming events, please provide the information to David, KC8TTQ, our club liaison.

Health and Welfare: Walt, WB8E will bring cards to the general meeting for people to sign.

Dennis, W8DFG discussed raising the dues to $25.00, in lieu of selling raffle tickets. Dennis will advise the membership of this proposal at the December general meeting, and may make a motion in January.

Ann, KT8F reported on the Christmas party – it was a great party and everyone had a great time.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ann, KT8F and 2nd by Dennis, W8DFG, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann, KT8F, Recording Secretary

General Meeting—December 13, 2005

In attendance:

W1IK, Jim	President
WN1B, Scott	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KW8Z, Ken	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
K8GEO, George	Board Member
N8OZ, Joe	Board Member
W1SKU, Fred	Board Member
*KB8QMS, Nancy	Past President

*Absent

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

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

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Mike, N5WCS, supported by Rich, K8PJQ, motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Dennis, W8DFG. Motion to accept made by Dave, W8RIT, 2nd by Bob, AA9AU, motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z - 194 members. Taking renewals at this time.

Website: no report. Check out the new website, www.useca.net. Contact Brad, N8VI with questions or comments.

Technical report: given by Scott, WN1B. Waiting on coax cable for relocation of the antenna at the Mt. Clemens site, and also installation of the antenna at the downtown site. Repeater is working well.

Express, Joe, K8OEF – no report.

ARRL: Dave, W8RIT – information to be published in the next issue of the Express.

Trustee report: Dennis, W8DFG – no report.

Field Day – Phil, W8IC gave report from this year's FD. Stats: #1 in Michigan; #1 in Great Lakes; #4 for those running QRP; and 28th overall in the country.

Club Liaison: David, KC8TTQ – see newsletter for details.

Health and Welfare: Walt, WB8E sent cards around for signing.

Old Business

Ann, KT8F reported on the Christmas party.

Tonight's foxhunt: fox – Keith KD8AWZ.
First place: Ann, KT8F; Phil, W8IC; and Bob, AA9AU.
Second place: Dave, W8RIT and Tom, KD8AVF
Third place: Darrell, KA8LGI
Fourth place: Paul, AA8OZ

New Business

Election:
Dennis, W8DFG read the nominations as listed in last month's nominations and reopened nominations.

—Continued on Page 9

If a Tree Falls in the Forest, And There is No One There to Hear It, Does It Make a Sound?

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

A DIFFICULT QUESTION. There are arguments on both sides that seem to make sense. A similar question could be asked if a ham called CQ and no one was listening...or, and my point, if everyone was listening and no one was transmitting, the band would appear to be dead. Often radio operators check the bands by tuning through and if not hearing any signals, assume the band is dead. Picture this, many operators listening on one particular band and no one touching a key. Even though propagation is perfect for radio communication, no one is transmitting.

This is a condition where Beacon Stations demonstrate their usefulness. The next time you tune to what sounds like a dead band, dial the beacon station frequency for that band and see if you can hear it. If you can, try a CQ, it may be one of those times when every one is listening and no one is talking. *[See the USECA Express, October 2005, Page 5 for the Beacon Transmission Schedule.—Ed.]*

Solar Power

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

WHAT COULD SOUND better to a ham than something for nothing? Well solar power is free once you have the equipment to harness it. For those kindred spirits who enjoy operating portable, solar power may solve your battery power problems.

The following information pertains to portable QRP operation.

Solar panels meant to keep car batteries charged during periods of non-use are available from auto parts stores and on the Internet for under $20.00. They are 12-volt small capacity units intended to trickle charge the vehicle batteries by plugging them into the cigar lighter socket.

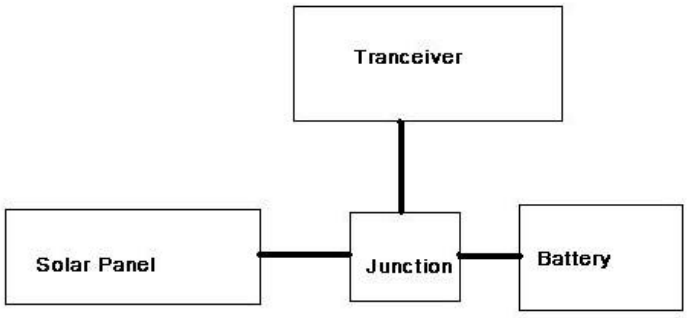
To modify one for my use, I first cut off the cigar lighter plug and replaced it with a DC connector common to all my QRP gear.

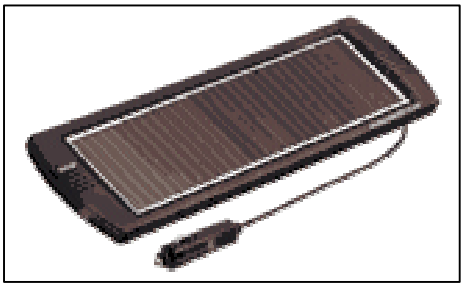
I then made up a junction box with three plugs wired in parallel that I could plug the solar panel, radio and battery into, connecting all together.

The enclosed diagram illustrates what the picture was intended to show.

Most large capacity solar systems use a charge controller to keep the batteries from being over charged, but with a small capacity solar panel it is not necessary. I have been using this configuration for two years and have never experienced any problems with it. Be advised not to try to operate the radio using the solar panel alone. A battery must be connected in line. The battery acts as a buffer and voltage regulator and is a necessary part of the system.

I have used Gel cells, NiCds and NMh batteries with good results.





Acoustically Resonant Loudspeaker

By Glen Leinweber, VE3DNL

A loudspeaker connected to a communications receiver should have limited frequency response. For voice reproduction, frequencies between 300 - 2700 Hz. contain useful information. For Morse code reproduction, a much smaller bandwidth, centered about 700 Hz. would be useful. This note describes how a small dynamic loudspeaker can be adapted to give a resonant peak at 700 Hz.

A bare loudspeaker has an inherent resonance. Its cone mass resonates with suspension compliance at a low audio frequency. At this frequency, cone motion is maximum. We'd like the cone to move as much as possible to create high-amplitude sound waves.

You may not be able to hear a "peak" at the speaker's inherent resonant frequency, because the air that the cone pushes out zips around the speakers edge to replace the air at the back of the cone. The result is that not much audio power is directed outward to your ears. In any case, the speaker's inherent resonant frequency is most often a good deal lower than we want. A small 2-inch bare loudspeaker might resonate at about 400 Hz. We need to find a way to increase resonant frequency up to the desired 700 Hz.

A loudspeaker is a dismally inefficient transducer. That is, the A.C. electrical power coming in is a great deal larger than the acoustical power delivered as sound waves. Typical efficiency is about one percent. The primary reason for such poor efficiency is that the air load on the cone is very light, compared with the driving force. This problem is very similar to an impedance mis-match, where a low source impedance cannot deliver maximum power to a high-impedance load. An acoustical transformer can boost efficiency by a great margin. Just as transmission lines can transform impedances from low to high, appropriately shaped acoustic cavities could be employed to address the mis-match. If they do so at only one frequency, so much the better.

Increasing resonance to 700 Hz.

At 700 Hz, our little 2-inch driver's cone is not moving much at all. The cone mass dominates, limiting cone motion. If we can balance the dominating mass with a stiffer compliance at 700 Hz, we can maximize cone motion, and get more sound. Since cone mass and compliance only balance at one frequency, we have a resonant condition. At lower frequencies, compliance dominates, at higher frequencies, cone mass dominates. So maximum sound only occurs at one frequency.

How can we increase compliance? We can use the compliance of air in a closed cavity behind the speaker. The smaller the cavity, the stiffer compliance it will have. The closed cavity will also prevent air from rushing around the speaker's edge to the back of the cone. An analogous transmission-line would have a short at one end, and be shorter than 1/4 wavelength long.

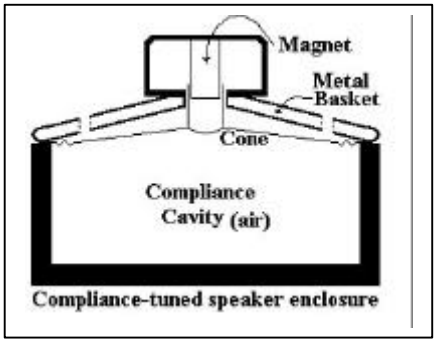
What is the right size cavity? The speaker that *you* choose to use may have a different cone mass (and resonant frequency) than another, so there is really no fixed cavity size appropriate for all speakers. Note that cavity depth is relatively unimportant here. There are other (longer) lengths of tubing that could provide the same compliance, but I've selected the shortest, smallest cavity possible. A small cavity is easier to make stiff. At 700 Hz., even stiff materials flex somewhat, which adds losses.

Another possibility is to use an open-ended tube. This solution requires a much longer tube, but can provide a more selective resonant peak.

I built a compliance-tuned speaker using a small 2-inch driver from a transistor radio. The speaker's outside edge sat in the rim of a 2 + 1/8" aluminum tube. The tube length was adjusted to give about 700 Hz. resonance: it ended up one inch deep. Once again, a bigger cavity will lower resonance - a smaller cavity will resonate at a higher frequency. A thick sheet of aluminum was cut to close off the end of the tube. Hot-melt glue holds everything together. Selectivity of this resonator is quite narrow (possibly too narrow) at about 150 Hz. Such narrow bandwidth can cause ear fatigue.

There is another advantage of this speaker. Even though I used an eight-ohm speaker, its impedance at the resonant peak is about 23 ohms! This means that less AC current flows, and less power is required of the audio amplifier. More volume with less power—a QRP device if there ever was one.

—Submitted by Dick, AF8X



USECA NET POINTS

AS OF DEC 10, 2005

VHF TOP 25

Callsign	Name	Total
W1IK	William J.	114
N8YBY	Leonard	72
KW8Z	Ken	67
KC8HMG	Janice	56
N8OZ	Joe	54
W8DFG	Dennis	51
KV8Z	Chris	50
KC8LOC	Tom	49
K8QLM	Richard	47
WB8E	Walt E.	47
KC8TTQ	David	43
N5WCS	R. Mike	39
KD8AVF	Tom	37
WN1B	Scott A.	36
KD8AWZ	Keith	32
KC8VCJ	Andrew	31
W8RIT	Dave	25
W8WTH	Richard B.	25
AB8BT	Andy	25
KC8SYO	Bob	24
N8PDP	Michael	22
WY8M	Arpad R.	21
WB8OAF	William G.	20
KI8JN	Phil	20
N8ZY	Robert	18

HF TOP 25

Callsign	Name	Total
WY8M	Arpad R	235
W1IK	William	107
K8QLM	Richard	62
KA2IBE	John F.	48
KV8Z	Chris	34
AB8BT	Andy	34
N8NKY	Edward	30
W8OMC	Ken	29
KC8LOC	Tom	24
WN1B	Scott A	10
KC8HMG	Janice	8
WB8OAF	William	8
N8ZY	Robert	6
WJ8R	Dave	6
KC8UKM	Chris	5
N8KC	Kenneth	2
N5WCS	R. Mike	2
WD8CRZ	Jim	2
W0JVC	Jay	2
N1GKE	Myrton	2
KD8AMO	Dan	2
KI0FH	Ray ND	2
KA6GME	Dave TX	2
N8COQ	Ken	2
K8DXX	William	2

Logging Software written by Jerry N8KLX

ATTN NCO'S: TURN YOUR LOGS INTO: WY8M@K8UO.COM

Please list calls & names in a vertical column
when submitting to Net Points Manager.

Due to the sheer quantity of check ins, well over 200 hams, only the top 25 for each category will be listed.

73 de WY8M dit dit

Corrections—(Sorta)

In last month's *Express*, Page 3 "The Ultimate Portable Antenna," the correct impedance is 5,000 ohms. In the printed edition the symbol for ohms printed fine, but when the *Express* was converted to a PDF file, the ohm symbol almost looks like a zero.

Also, on Page 1, "Eat B 4 U Meet," the correct word in the last paragraph should be "soup" not "soap."

Polarization

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

Wonder why you can't hear the net control station and yet hear others on the net at longer distances?

Most of you have probably had the experience of looking through polarized sun glasses.

Light reflected from surfaces like a flat road or smooth water is generally horizontally polarized. This horizontally polarized light is blocked by the vertically oriented polarizers in the lenses. If you turn your head sideways the glare is passed through the lenses.

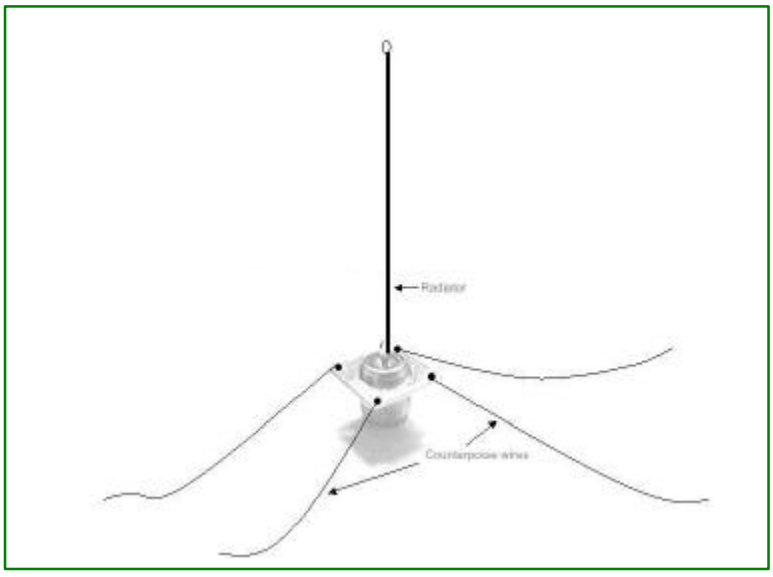
Polarized radio waves can also be blocked to some degree or passed depending on the configuration of the transmitting and receiving antennas. This condition is not found in DX transmissions, but in local close in nets, the reception of signals transmitted on a vertical antenna will be greatly degraded by a horizontal antenna and vice versa.

The chart below shows the ratio of power from like and unlike polarized antennas.

Transmit Antenna Polarization	Receive Antenna Polarization	Ratio in dB	as Ratio
Vertical	Vertical	0 dB	1
Vertical	Slant (45° or 135°)	-3 dB	½
Vertical	Horizontal	-∞ dB	0
Vertical	Circular (right-hand or left-hand)	-3 dB	½
Horizontal	Horizontal	0 dB	1
Horizontal	Slant (45° or 135°)	-3 dB	½
Horizontal	Circular (right-hand or left-hand)	-3 dB	½
Circular (right-hand)	Circular (right-hand)	0 dB	1
Circular (right-hand)	Circular (left-hand)	-∞ dB	0
Circular (right or left)	Slant (45° or 135°)	-3 dB	½

USECA Club Liaison

MONTH	DATE	EVENT
JAN	14	ARAY Swap-N-Shop. Amateur Radio And Youth Club Flushing, MI St. Robert Catholic School 214 East Henry Street http://www.arayclub.org Talk-In: 147.100 (PL 100.0) Contact: Clayton Hewitt, KF8UI Phone: 810-233-7889 Email: kf8ui@arrl.net
JAN	15	Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club. Hazel Park, MI Hazel Park High School 23400 Hughes Street http://www.qsl.net/w8hp Talk-In: 146.640 (PL 100) Contact: Sean Fleming, K8KHZ Phone: 248-691-1130 Email: k8khz@yahoo.com
FEB	4	H.A.R.A. Swap and Shop. Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association Negaunee, MI Negaunee Township Hall 42 Hwy M-35 http://www.qsl.net/k8lod/ Talk-In: 147.27 (PL 100) Contact: Robert Serfas, N8PKN Phone: 906-225-6773 Email: n8pkn@aol.com
FEB	11	Annual Swap-n-Shop. Cherryland Amateur Radio Club Traverse City, MI Immaculate Conception Middle School 218 Vine Street http://www.carc.tc Talk-In: 146.86 Contact: Joe Novak, W8TVT Phone: 231-947-8555 Email: jjnovak@charter.net
FEB	19	Livonia Amateur Radio Club. Livonia, MI Livonia Community Recreation Center 15100 Hubbard Road http://www.larc.mi.org Talk-In: 145.350 (-) Contact: William Johnston, W8WSJ Phone: 734-673-5071 Email: swap2006@larc.mi.org
MAR	18	Crossroads Hamfest. Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society Marshall, MI Marshall High School 701 North Marshall http://www.qsl.net/w8df Talk-In: 146.660 (no tone) Contact: Billy W. Booth, KD8CDS Phone: 269-965-1415 Email: SQJUMPER@aol.com
APR	8	Milford Swap and Shop. Milford Amateur Radio Club Highland, MI Milford High School 2380 Milford Road http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk/ Talk-In: 145.49 MHz (PL 67) Contact: Rose Mary Moore, KC8NQJ Phone: 810-632-5174 Email: mboard3106@aol.com
		Submitted by David, KC8TTQ



See article on Page 1

Meeting Minutes—*From Page 4*

Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Membership Secretary were closed as there were no contenders to the incumbents. The contenders to President, VP, and BOD members were provided a chance to make a statement defining their goals.

No other nominations were made and nominations were closed.

Dennis, W8DFG discussed raising dues. This will be brought up at the next BOD meeting.

The results of the election:
President: Chuck, N8ZA
Vice-President: Brad, N8VI
Recording Secretary: Ann, KT8F
Treasurer: Dennis, W8DFG
Membership Secretary: Ken, KW8Z
Board Members: Joe, N8OZ; Phil, W8IC; and Walt, WB8E

Congratulations to the new members of the 2006 board.

Many thanks to our outgoing Board Members for services well done and much appreciated.

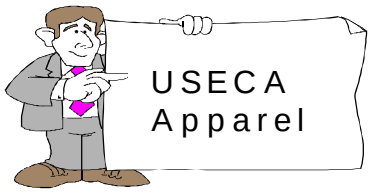
Motion to conclude the business portion of the meeting made by Steve, N8XO, 2nd by Keith KD8AWZ, motion carried. The business portion was concluded at 8:35 PM.

The program was provided by Scott, WN1B on transmitter performance testing.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann, KT8F, Recording Secretary

USECA VE Testing

Testing will be the FIRST Thursday of the month from September through June. Joe, N8OZ will have the CVE duty. No pre-registration is needed or wanted. Test Fee is $14.00. 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: Chuck, N8ZA
At Meetings or Phone (586) 557-4983

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 **USECA member.**

✓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: Arpad, WY8M, 28803 Grobbel, Warren, MI 48092; or email to *wy8m@arrl.net.*

✓5) If *you* notice any errors in the database, wrong or changed call signs, mis-spelled names, etc., let Arpad 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?

ALS 600 Solid State Base Amp. No tune 1.5 to 22 MHz. List $1129.99; sell for $1000. (Page 86 in AES catalog) Contact Jerry, K8CFY at: *k8cfy@k8uo.com.*

COMET SB-14 6M/2M/440 Mobile antenna. Black fold-over base. Excellent condition. Only $40! Contact Floyd, W8RO, at (248) 431-7769 or *w8ro@k8uo.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.

2 REPEATERS. 2 meter and 440. Yaesu Vertex VXR 5000s. CAT 1000 controllers with DVR and WX interface. Wacom cans. Peet Bros weather station. Cabinet. Gerry, K8GER (989) 826-3196 or *k8ger@k8uo.com.*

WANTED: Motorola Expo batteries in GWO. Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769 or *w8ro@k8uo.com*

★New or changed this month.

Please notify the editor to have item(s) added and/or removed.

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

? Miscellaneous Items?

CHEVROLET, 2003 Trailblazer 4WD (W8RO/M). Excellent condition, loaded. Sandlewood exterior, Tan interior. 29K miles. Only $22,900! For more details, contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769 or *w8ro@k8uo.com.*

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

FREE! To a good home: Epson Apex L-1000 Dot Matrix Printer (24 pin). Very good condition with manuals and drivers! Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769 or *w8ro@k8uo.com.*

★SONY/DELL 21" CRT Computer Monitor with manual; like new; 2 years old. $195. Contact Joe, K8OEF at (586) 781-0050 or *k8oef@k8uo.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.

TRU-CHEK Rain Gauge. "World's best rain gauge." Slightly used and still in box with unused mounting bracket. $15 Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769 or *w8ro@k8uo.com.*

USecA

(That's us—U S of A)

On Behalf of the Michigan QSO Party committee and the Mad River Radio Club, we would like to thank you for your sponsoring the 2005 QSO party. Attached is a picture of the plaque that your club sponsored. I hope you can put a copy of it in your newsletter. I look forward to your continued support.

Mike WD8S - Award Chairman MQP

—Submitted by Jim, W1IK

★FOR SALE

1999 NIGHTHAWK – Honda 750cc 4-cylinder Nighthawk motorcycle, black, 18k miles, new aftermarket windshield added, Clymers shop manual; $2600.

KENWOOD R2000 – Shortwave HF receiver, covers all HF-broadcast-ham-CB-marine bands, receives all popular modes AM/FM/CW/SSB, 150 kHz to 30 MHz, front firing speaker, built in power supply or can run on external 12VDC, have original box, owners manual, service manual, makes a great Christmas present and is now only; $295

TrippLite Power Supply – model PR-40, label sez "13.8V @ 40A", no meters, ¼"-20 threaded power lugs on the back, power switch on the front, yep, it's heavy! $100.

ROLODEX RT-8214 – electronic organizer, 2Mb of memory, touch screen like PDA, software, pc cable for backups, just got it but looks like I won't use it, so, for sale; $20.

MFJ-915 – RF Isolator, SO-239 (PL-style) connectors, manual, like new; $20.

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

MFJ MFJ-956 – tuner, two knobs, 2 SO-239's; $20.

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

¼" Phono – all metal male phono plug, use for mono headphones and such; $1.

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.

Computer Speakers – amplified pc speakers, used only 10 minutes; $5.

Dummy Load – "twin tower" dual massive ceramic resistors, looks like 100W easy; $15.

1N3085 – huge 100V 150A recovery diodes, have two; $10/each.

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

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

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

Wall Warts – various voltages, email with needs; $3-to $5.

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

K-40 10/11M Whip – 4' fiberglass, black, tunable, substitute for original K-40 stainless whip & base load, no mount or coax just the antenna; $1.

Contact Arpad, WY8M at: *wy8m@arrl.net* or 147.180 MHz + 100 Hz PL.

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. 1/06

MEMBER: **ARRL** ☐ YES ☐ NO **RACES** ☐ YES ☐ NO

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

CALL_____ CLASS_____

NAME_____

BIRTHDATE_____

MEMBER: **ARRL** ☐ YES ☐ NO
RACES ☐ YES ☐ NO

CALL_____ CLASS_____

NAME_____

BIRTHDATE_____

MEMBER: **ARRL** ☐ YES ☐ NO
RACES ☐ YES ☐ NO

Annual Membership Dues: Regular: $20 — Family: $30
Applications can be given to the Membership Secretary at monthly meeting or mailed.
Please make check payable to: **USECA —** Address: **P.O. Box 46331, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046**
(Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.)
USECA reserves the right to accept or reject New or Renewal Memberships.

Local Area FM Nets

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

VHF PL'S — 100 Hz

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

WWW.USECA.NET

Local HF Nets

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

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

Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

WEEK	SUN. 1 PM 147.180 MHz	SUN. 8 PM** 147.180 MHz
1	VA3IDJ	W1IK
2	KT8F	KC8WXF
3	–OPEN–	W8RIT
4	KW8Z	WN1B
5*	WB8E	KW8Z

**If applicable*

***Traders/Helpers Net*

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

U S E C A

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL

JANUARY 2006

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
JAN	5	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
JAN	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting
FEB	2	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
FEB	14	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAR	2	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
MAR	14	7:30 pm	General Meeting
APR	6	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
APR	11	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	4	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
MAY	9	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	TBA		Pre-Field Day
MAY	19-21		Dayton Hamvention
JUN	1	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
JUN	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting & Fox Hunt
JUN	24-25		Field Day

N a m e B a d g e s

WITH THE *OFFICIAL* USECA LOGO

CONTACT LAURA — (586) 749-4561