



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 25, Number 1, January 2009

USECA EXPRESS Celebrating its 25th ANNIVERSARY!

USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—December 1, 2008

In attendance:

Tom, N8ZI	President
Alec, NF8X	Vice-President
Ann, KT8F	Recording Secretary
Dennis, W8DFG	Treasurer
Joe, N8OZ	Membership Secretary
Walt, WB8E	Board Member
*Ray, K8RDJ	Board Member
Ken, N8UO	Board Member
Chuck, N8ZA	Past President
*Absent	



Note: board member's call signs are not included in the minutes as they are listed above.

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

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

Treasurer's report provided by Dennis. Motion to accept made by Alec, and supported by Ann, motion carried.

Membership: Joe - 157 members.

Web master report provided by Alec - the video for the school ISS contact in October is now on the website for your viewing. The website has now been moved to a new server.

Trustee: Dennis W8DFG - our TDS has been filed. Dennis passed out copies of our current TDS for board review. Health and Welfare: no news.

—Continued on Page 6

Election:

Club Officers

The following are the results of the December election — your new officers for 2009:

President

Bill, N8SA

Vice President

Rob, KD8ENP

Recording Secretary

Ann, KT8F

Treasurer

Dennis, W8DFG

Membership Secretary

Joe, N8OZ

Board Member (3 Elected)

Jim, WY8I

Larry, W8NIC

Chuck, N8ZA



Next Meeting — January 12th

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Bill Chesney/N8SA (586) 468-8345
Vice President	Rob Lifton/KD8ENP (248) 797-2264
Recording Secretary	Ann Manor/KT8F (586) 751-3893
Treasurer	Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Membership Secretary	Joe Kennedy/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Board Member	Jim Odam/WY8I (586) 879-3127
Board Member	Larry Logarta/W8NIC
Board Member	Chuck Perushek/N8ZA (586) 557-4983
Past President	Tom Tincknell/N8ZI (586) 651-7239

COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison	Bill/N8SA
Awards Manager	Bob/N8ZY (586) 978-1682
Door Prizes	-OPEN-
Editor	Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
Field Day Chair	Bill/N8SA, Steve/N8XO & Ray/N8UY
Health & Welfare	Rob/KD8ENP (248) 816-2222
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Mailers/Sorters	Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
Net Manager	Bob/N8ZY (586) 978-1682
Photographer	Wes/KD8DHS
Program Director	Alec/NF8X (586) 873-8841
Public Relations Officer	Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
Refreshments	Walt/WB8E; & Alec/NF8X
Repeater Trustee	Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Swap Director	Larry, W8NIC
Technical Director	Jim/W1IK (586) 771-4135
Technicians	KA8D; W8IC; WA8GQL; W8RO; AD8S; N8SA; W1SKU; N8ZI
VE Testing	Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Webmaster	Alec/NF8X (586) 873-8841

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

Jim/WY8I*	Joe/K8OEF*	Alec/NF8X*
Phil/W8IC	Joe/N8OZ*	Chuck/N8ZA*
Jim/W1IK	Floyd/W8RO	Tom/N8ZI*

PROGRAMMERS

Dennis/W8DFG	Jim/W1IK	Brad/N8VI
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The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

Congrats and good luck to the new board members of our club for this New Year.

Speaking of a new year, the editorial staff would like to see more articles, such as Pre-Field Day activities; Field Day happenings and results; Swap and Shop including prize winners; the annual Christmas party, and let's not forget the "lark in the park" outings.

Take a good look at the above paragraph—now look again—see anything there that looks worth mentioning—sure, everything! But here's the sad part about it, nothing has been printed in the *Express* for everyone to enjoy.

What's the problem?

Or better yet, what's the solution?

I'm sure there are members in our club that don't listen to the repeater on a regular basis or can't attend the meetings, and if the above activities are not mentioned elsewhere, how would they know how or what our club is doing?

73 and Happy New Year!

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 Monday 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 VE Testing

Testing will be the THIRD Monday of the month from September thru June. Joe, N8OZ, is the Contact VE. Pre-registration is encouraged. Test fee is \$14.00 cash (exact change only). Examinees need to bring Xerox copies of current license and un-expired CSCE's, if any. There is no copy machine at the test site. Official starting time is 7:00 PM. Walk-ins are welcomed. Test site is at the Mt. Clemens Elks Club (179 S. Main St. in Mt. Clemens). Other VE test sessions can be arranged—contact the Contact VE for details.

Winter Field Day 2009

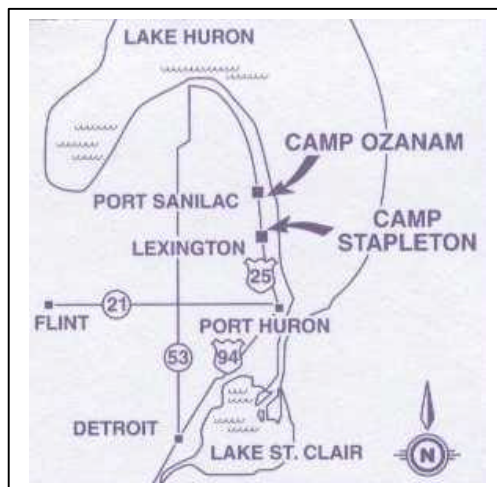
Have you ever come down with Cabin fever in January and wondered what there is to do that wont break the bank, close by but far enough to say your up north at a retreat center with a bunch of other hams? Well have we got the cure. Winter Field day!

We all know that field day in June is to test ourselves how to get emergency communication going in case of an emergency. But know one ever expects an emergency to happen in the middle of winter yet train for it. **It can happen!** That's why winter field day is a great way to see how you will set up your station and test your communication skills in the cold conditions.

Winter field Day will be held on the weekend of January 24 & 25, 2009 at Camp Ozanam near Port Sanilac Michigan. We are very fortunate to be able to get this camp that has everything that is needed for us to have a great weekend. If you want to spend the night you can do that. The accommodations are great. There are pictures of the camp on the USECA web site. Yes the sleeping areas are heated. There will be plenty of food. We are even planning a chili cook off for those who might have a great chili recipe. Everything you need for a great weekend getaway for cheap. Its very easy to get to as well.

Cost: \$10.00 per person. (This goes directly to the Camp)

Directions from the Metropolitan Detroit area: I-94 east to Pt. Huron, follow M-25 toward Lexington north along the lake to Walker Rd. Camp Ozanam is Located at 7303 Walker Rd. You cant miss the sign at M-25 and Walker Rd.



If you are interested or have questions please contact Larry W8SOX, or Chuck N8ZA. If you are interested in running a station please contact Pete AA8GK.

Hope to see you there!

ABM3AC Damaged By High Surf

http://www.pbase.com/always somewhere/marshall_islands See the photos towards the bottom for Day 1 and Day 2 damage. Additional photos will follow in the days to come.

A strong tropical depression (not a typhoon) north of the atoll generated swells that were 2.5 - 3 meters in height and when we had our high tide (+1 meter) on the afternoon of 8 Dec around 0030Z the shore line could not hold back the water. Remember, the island of Roi-Namur sits just 2 meters above sea level.

Typically all surf comes from the same direction as the trade winds, out of the NE. These waves came from the North and Northwest and that is the worst possible direction for them to come from. The outer edge of the reef protects us from the worst of the surf, causing it to break farther out, but all that water still has to go somewhere.

You'll see a photo of the flooding of the building which the shack was located in. This was after the first overtopping event on Day 1. Power was still on and it was not safe to attempt to enter the building to rescue gear. I just held my breath and waited.

Later that night (8 Dec 1200Z) the tide was +1.25 meters and the swell had increased to over 4 meters. The shoreline was no match for this and vast portions of the island flooded with seawater. The ham shack is one of the lowest buildings on the island and is located ~80 meters from the shore. The north exterior wall of the building was pushed in by the second event and the level of water rose to over 2 feet. (Bottom of the top desk drawer!) The south walls were pushed out by the force of the water too. The shack does not occupy the whole building, just a space on the south side of it. The shack's northern interior wall held, but at this point that's all moot anyway.

It's still standing, but not for long. Waters went down today and I was able to recover my station equipment which remained above water. I did lose two 50Amp Astron's which were in the rack a foot off the ground. I also lost some books, manuals, cables, spare parts, 500' of RG-58, 500' of RG213 etc which were either in drawers or on the floor of the closet. The gear I recovered still needs to be tested and cleaned up. I don't look forward to the shipping cost of 50 Amp linear power supplies!

The three Collins 30S1 amps all were filled with water to just below the RF decks. They are still in the shack and I hope to recover them before the building falls. I need help and a forklift to get them to a safe place. It will be a lot of work to restore them now.

The housing sing area where the trailers are was hard hit, many off their foundations, by the second event and many will be condemned as a result. The amount, and size, of rocks carried far onto the island from the shore line is amazing. The first event brought many, the second filled the entire area with rocks! There are even fish on the middle of the golf course.

I hope to be operational from my quarters with my vertical masting in the next 2 days. Now is the time to start making plans to activate from the new building but I am sure that will be several months from now as there is a lot of clean up to be done here. The new site still needs an AC unit installed. BTW, the new site is 15 meters from the shore line. "Are ya feelin' lucky, punk?" This whole high surf event is very very rare here. Some of the workers have been here 22 years and never seen anything like it. Kinda like the perfect storm.

I will say one thing, the beaches have never been so clean - just don't look on the island, where all the plastic, rubber, rope, fishing nets, cans and coconut ended up. The island will take time to recover and there will be a lot of brown grass that died from the saltwater. This is the start of the dry season too, so it will look like that for a while.

Water always wins, that's why there's a Grand Canyon.

73, Neil
V73NS
ABM3AC
WD8CRT
V63NS
HSOZIC
YI9NS

FCC Requests Ham's Technical Aid in Education on DTV.

We have received a request by the FCC for members of the ARRL to provide technical educational assistance to their communities during January and February in accomplishing the digital TV conversion. Clubs are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information about the DTV conversion in their areas in ways they think best fits their community. Each community is a little different, so your plans may vary. Let your Section Manager know your group is willing to help out.

Hams should *not* make "house calls," sell any equipment or do actual installations -- the request is only to distribute technical information and their materials. As we all know, some folks just never get the message until too late. Materials for presentations, education and many other activities are available at <http://www.dtv.gov/outreach.html>. Beginning early January, FCC staff will contact Section Managers and leaders of interested clubs and, where possible, arrange to meet for sharing even more information, A/V and printed materials and training aids with the clubs in this effort.

We know the time is short and problematic, (not our choice) but your aid in this now will be appreciated.

In early January, Section Managers will be asked for the names and contact information of the volunteering groups. FCC staff will then make contact with them, learn their plans, and provide them with the media, brochures or other materials your group may need in this effort. Materials also can be downloaded from the web at <http://www.dtv.gov/outreach.html>. FCC regional staff may even come and visit with larger groups to aid in implementation of the group's plans.

—Submitted by Bill, N8SA



Meeting Minutes—From Page 1

Technical report: Phil, W8IC stated that he took the east site link home to work on it and it seems to be working fine now. Requested that we still listen for inference from 147.200. Jim, W1IK has the additional components needed to install the new controller and is continuing to work on the conversion as time permits. A discussion on other components that we need in the future for the repeater took place.

Old Business:

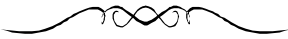
Fundraising – please sell tickets for the radio raffle.

New Business:

Chuck discussed winter field day. Chuck made a motion that the board pass a budget of \$150.00 for this event, seconded by Alec. Discussion. Vote, motion passed. Pass-a-dishes are still requested.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Alec and 2nd by Ken, motion carried, meeting adjourned at: 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary.



General Meeting — December 8, 2008

In attendance:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Tom, N8ZI | President |
| Alec, NF8X | Vice-President |
| Ann, KT8F | Recording Secretary |
| Dennis, W8DFG | Treasurer |
| Joe, N8OZ | Membership Secretary |
| Walt, WB8E | Board Member |
| Ray, K8RDJ | Board Member |
| Ken, N8UO | Board Member |
| Chuck, N8ZA | Past President |

*Absent

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

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

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Steve, N8XO, and 2nd by Rich, N8PJQ, motion carried.

Treasurer’s report given by Dennis, W8DFG. Motion to approve made by Jim, W1IK and 2nd by Larry, W8NIC, motion carried. Dennis made a motion that the club pay the club liability insurance of \$320.00, seconded by WY8I, discussion, vote, motion passed.

Membership: Joe, N8OZ: - 157 members.

Webmaster: Alec: We have moved to a new server. Some new updates are available, including a video of the ISS presentation.

Technical report: Jim, W1IK – Some changes were made at the main site. A power supply was replaced and some other tweaking was done. It is now working fine. Phil, W8IC

and Chuck, N8ZA worked on the east side and have hopefully fixed the problem there. All sites seem to be working fairly well at this time. A new isolator will be installed at the main site as well as a new controller. When? In two weeks, of course. Contact Phil or Jim by phone if you note a problem with any transmissions.

ARRL Liaison: Bill, N8SA – no report.

Trustee report: Dennis, W8DFG – reported that our annual TDS’s (Technical Data Sheets – 7 in all) have been filed.

Health & Welfare: Rob, KD8ENP – no report.

USECA Apparel, badges:

Swap: - no report.

Old Business:

Ann, KT8F stated that tonight is the deadline for payment for the Christmas Party.

Winter Field Day –weekend of January 24, 2009. Contact Pete AA8GK, Larry, W8SOX, or Chuck N8ZA for information.

New Business:

Buy a raffle ticket for the Kenwood TMD-710. \$10.00/ticket – proceeds will go toward the purchase of a new tent for field day. Dennis provided information about a new tent he has been looking at. He is continuing to investigate possibilities.

55 members and visitors were present.

Nominations for 2009 were reopened by Chuck, N8ZA. Dan, N8ZBA was nominated for Vice President.

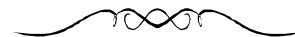
Dennis, W8DFG made a motion that the Recording Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for those officers running unopposed: Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Seconded by Joe, N8OZ, discussion, vote, motion carried. Nominations were then closed.

Elections were conducted. Officers and Board Members elected for 2009 are as follows:

- President: Bill, N8SA
- Vice-President: Rob, KD8ENP
- Recording Secretary: Ann, KT8F
- Treasurer: Dennis, W8DFG
- Membership Secretary: Joe, N8OZ
- Board Members: Chuck, N8ZA; Larry, W8NIC; Jim WY8I.

Motion to close the meeting at 9:13 PM made by Don, WB8F, seconded by Larry, W8NIC. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary



USECA APPLICATION



Rev. 6/08

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

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

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

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

Annual Membership Dues: Regular: \$20 — Family: \$30 — Mail Printed Newsletter, ADD \$10.00

New Member applications must be mailed to P.O. Box address below.

Please make check payable to: **USECA** — Address: **P.O. Box 46331, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046**

All mailed-in applications to the P.O. Box must include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

(Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.)

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



Local Area FM Nets

DAY	TIME	CLUB	FREQ.
SUN	1:00 pm	USECA/Information	147.180
SUN	8:00 pm	USECA/Traders/Tech Sup.	147.180
SUN	9:00 pm	HPARC/Info	146.640
SUN	9:00 pm	Garden City ARC	146.860
SUN-SAT	10:15 pm	S. E. Michigan Traffic Net	145.330
MON	7:30 pm	SATERN	147.180
MON	8:00 pm	MECA/Info	147.200
MON	8:00 pm	GMARC (PL 123)	443.075
TUE	9:00 pm	Motor City Radio Club	147.240
WED	9:00 pm	ARPSC/Info	145.490
THU	8:00 pm	RACES/ARES	147.200
THU	8:30 pm	LCARC/Info	147.080
SAT	11:45 pm	Hoot Owl	147.180

VHF PL'S — 100 Hz

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

WWW.USECAARC.COM

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
TUE	8:00 pm	USECA/80 Meter Phone LSB	3.830
WED	7:00 pm	USECA/6 Meter Phone USB	50.140
THU	7:30 pm	LCARC/10 Meter Phone USB	28.435
THU	9:00 pm	USECA/15 Meter CW	21.140
FRI	10:00 pm	USECA/80 Meter CW	3.570
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

	SUN. 1 PM	SUN. 8 PM**	FRI. 11:45 PM
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
1	KD8CXJ	W11K	-OPEN-
2	N8ZA	W8NIC	-OPEN-
3	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	-OPEN-
4	WB8E	KD8GZE	-OPEN-
5*	KT8F	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

*If applicable

**Traders/Tech Support

Updated 12/09

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

USECA

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

JANUARY 2009



"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
JAN	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting
JAN	19	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
FEB	9	7:30 pm	General Meeting
FEB	16	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
MAR	9	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAR	16	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
APR	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting
APR	20	7:00 pm	VE Test Session

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