



# USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC. Volume 26, Number 1, January 2010

**USECA EXPRESS**  
**Celebrating its**  
**26<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY!**

## USECA Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting—December, 2009

In attendance:

Bill, N8SA	President
Ed, KD8CXJ	Vice-President
Rob, NY8W	Recording Secretary
Dennis, W8DFG	Treasurer
Joe, N8OZ	Membership Secretary
Jim, WY8I	Board Member
Larry, W8NIC	Board Member
Chuck, N8ZA	Board Member
Walt, WB8E	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: 7:45 PM.

Walt made a motion to accept November's board meeting minutes as printed in the Express. Dennis seconded and the motion carried.

Dennis delivered an outline of his Treasurer's report and informed the board that a full report would be ready for the general meeting on December 14th.

Joe informed the board that as of tonight's board meeting, there were 171 paid members for 2009.

Webmaster's report: N8ZY Bob has most of the access he needs at this point and expects to have everything soon.

Trustee's report was given by Dennis: our repeater's TDS report (required to maintain coordination) is due and will be filed with the repeater council within the next couple of months.

—Continued on Page 8

## Election Results:

### Club Officers

The following are the results of the December election — your new officers for 2010:

#### President

Larry, W8SOX

#### Vice President

Dan, N8ZBA

#### Recording Secretary

Rob, NY8W

#### Treasurer

Dennis, W8DFG

#### Membership Secretary

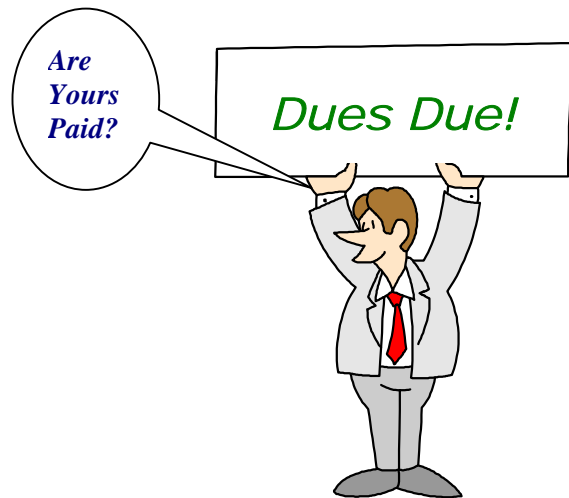
Ray, K8RDJ

#### Board Member (3 Elected)

Walt, WB8E

Larry, W8NIC

Chuck, N8ZA



**Next Meeting — January 11th**

# CLUB DIRECTORY

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Larry Stocking/W8SOX (586) 294-7718
Vice President	Dan Maliniak/N8ZBA (586) 596-3195
Recording Secretary	Rob Lifton/NY8W (248) 797-2264
Treasurer	Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Membership Secretary	Ray Anderson/K8RDJ (586) 979-4456
Board Member	Walt Gracey/WB8E (586) 596-9547
Board Member	Larry Logarta/W8NIC
Board Member	Chuck Perushek/N8ZA (586) 557-4983
Past President	Bill Chesney/N8SA (586) 468-0106

## 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/NY8W (248) 816-2222
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Mailers/Sorters	Ann/KT8F & Crew
Net Manager	Bob/N8ZY (586) 978-1682
Photographer	Wes/KD8DHS
Program Director	—OPEN—
Public Relations Officer	Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
Refreshments	Walt/WB8E; & Alec/NF8X
Repeater Trustee	Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Swap Director	Jeff/KD8CIA
Technical Director	Jim/W1IK (586) 771-4135
Technicians	KA8D; WA8QL; W8RO; AD8S; N8SA; W1SKU; N8ZI
VE Testing	Alec/NF8X (586) 873-8841
Webmaster	Bob/N8ZY (586) 978-1682

## CONTROL OPERATORS (\*Phone Number Above)

Jim/WY8I	Rob/NY8W*	Chuck/N8ZA*
Jim/W1IK*	Alec/NF8X*	Dan/N8ZBA

## 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.

*73 and Happy New Year!*

*[The above article is a cut and paste from last January's Express — strange how some things never change.]*

### Ever Wondered?—From Page 5

The Great Black Swamp is today little more than the dark ghost of a bygone habitat. Almost nowhere, except at Goll Woods State Nature Preserve in Fulton County, portions of Ottawa National Wildlife Area in Lucas County, and a few other scattered wood lots, can one find examples of the primeval swamp forest. And yet, it's hard to mourn wholeheartedly the passing of that dark, old morass, mud-banks steaming with humidity in the summer heat, malaria "Musketoes" whining dismally in the car, poison ivy matting the spaces between trees.

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.

### USECA VE Testing

Testing will be the THIRD Monday of the month from September thru June. Alec, NF8X, 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.

## Babblings from Bill

**Y**EAH, I KNOW, 'WHO CARES'. More incessant mumbblings from that guy again—ARGH! Oh, well, since I have nothing more to do I may as well see what this moron has to say! So...on with this show.

As you read this another year has started for our proud club. First off I apologize for not being regular in the *Express*. Just a matter of me getting used to the lead time. Joe keeps working on me, but I am slow.

We have had a good but slightly tumultuous year. Our list of good things are the new tent for da' food at FD, a VERY successful Swap, a beautiful summer (well, that ain't really anything to do with the club, but it made FD nice.), a couple of successful radio raffles, a plethora of new hams and new members, a hand in setting up and supporting the Armada Middle School ham radio station and soon to be club.

Congratulations to Leo, KW8J on winning the Yaesu FT857D. Remember I own \$60.00 of that radio Leo and would like to take it out in operating time—HA! It is all for a good cause. By now we all should have survived the Christmas Holidays, hopefully all happy and refreshed to face winter in our 'winter wonderland'. Let's also take a moment to think of ways your club can improve the experience for you. E-mail those ideas to me and let's get on it. Send to [n8sa@arrl.net](mailto:n8sa@arrl.net)

On a personal front most of you that listen to the repeater are painfully aware of my tower and beam project. Well, I am here to tell you the new beam is working great after getting a couple of minor bugs scared off. I now have a 2 element Cubex <http://www.cubex.com> quad. It covers 10, 12, 15, 17, and 20 meters. 1.7:1 SWR bandwidth is full on all bands except 10m, but that covers from 28-29 MHz with less than 2.0 to 1. I don't have anywhere on any other band where it gets over 1.7 to 1. I don't have to use tuner or worry about SWR on any frequency, just operate. I have installed DM780 digital, logging, rig control, etc software that Mark, W8IR demonstrated a couple of months ago. It is powerful but daunting in it's complexity. Will definitely be a learning curve with this program, but I think it will be worth it. I also run Hf mobile and enjoy that immensely. I have an SGC 230 auto tuner and it's accompanying antenna. This gives me 10-160m almost instant QSY with a pretty respectable signal except on 160 where I was told to 'come back when you get a signal'! Oh, well, I am too young to use that band anyway.

January, as our program, I am asking everyone to bring their laptops with WIFI. We will be doing a mock Field Day run with Jerry, N8K LX's newest FD Logging software. It is capable of gathering all contacts from all stations on a wireless network and displaying a running real time total of all stations and modes and show a running score on the server. At FD we will probably have this server on display in the Food Tent for visitors and all to see, but for this demo we will display it on the large screen so all can see their updates as they happen. If we can get it working it will be really cool. It will take a commitment from all station chairs to purchase

hi-power wireless adaptors or use wireless cards that allow external antennas to cover the distances involved. I really need a computer head to work on this project to make sure it works. Got some wireless networking expertise? Any takers? HMMMM? We will have details on cards that work and that will not break the piggy bank. We might also get the club to spring for a few to start and purchase more as we work out bugs much as we have the band filters and USB drives. I am always excited about our Field Day and this year will be no exception.

I would also like to re-start a project we used to do. I would like to have a USECA videographer who can video the FD experience and put it to a CD, DVD, etc for purchase by members after FD. We used to do this and it was a lot of fun to look back at old FD's. I have a collection of them from our early years and they are priceless now...of course they are on VHS—HA! I need to get them moved to DVD. Coverage of our upcoming Winter FD would be cool too. Think Winter FD now. See Larry, W8SOX for details as to availability of stations. It is a Great time to play radio, and we have a great time doing it. Come join us!

Winter is also the time to break out the books, computers, whatever you need to get that next upgrade. The HF bands are starting to EXPLODE. It is so much fun carrying on a long phone quality conversation with a Danish ham discussing antennas, beer or whatever. I think you get my point. I know several hams who are literally working the world on PSK31 with minimal power and antennas. You need not have a tower and beam to be very successful with DX. Mobile HF, which I enjoy daily is a lot of fun and a challenge also. I don't even know how many countries I have worked but the Russians are starting to call me by name as they inform me we have already worked from my mobile. I am feeling more and more like Walt. I am giving Walt competition in the WABC award. (Worked All Bombed Countries) HA!

I will have a separate article on my antenna project in this *Express*. I am really enjoying working the world and crashing pile-ups on first or second call. Until I see you in my further ramblings. Good DX.

Bill Chesney, N8SA

The 6 meter net will celebrate 12 years of operation this coming January 2010. I would like to thank everyone who has checked into the net and supported it. So why don't YOU start 2010 by checking into the 6 meter phone net that meets every Wednesday at 7 PM on 50.140 MHz .

—Leonard, N8YBY

## The Great Quad Project

By Bill N8SA

**A**FTER HAVING A hiatus of several years of HF from my home, I am finally back on the air thanks to lots of USECA friends and my daughter and son-in-law. Of course the new Cubex 2 el 5 band quad certainly helps. This was not as easy a project as I originally hoped. It is quite a story but I will give you the Readers Digest version....sort of. So, here goes.

This project started with my co-elmering Dr. Bob Marcereau, N8YH. Most of you probably don't know Bob. He took my most recent Ham University, passed, and within months was an Extra. Shortly after, he retired to his new home up north on the banks of the beautiful AuSable River. He lives next door to Dr Al Depolo K3AAD's cabin. The three of us have been discussing what antenna would fit Bob's set up the best and cost the least, but be a good DX getter. We researched a lot of antennas, mostly small, compact yagis that would work on his 40 foot TV tower on his house. After much E-mail and exhaustive research, reading E-ham reviews, etc. we came across Cubex. This antenna company has been making Quads for hams for 52 years so they are not new to this. Their website is full of good information, including engineering reasons for the claims they make as to their antennas. Their claims are backed by lots of excellent ratings in E-ham, QRZ, etc. I even spoke to hams on the air that were using them. None were dissatisfied. Ok, so now you see what we picked...I say we, because I decided I wanted one also. It would fit my situation perfectly. So, what were the factors that made us pick a quad over the more common yagi, or mini-quad?

So, a little primer on quads is in order. The cubicle quad is a full wave loop of wire fed directly, through  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave matching stubs or a gamma match. The feed impedance is a factor of spacing and the number of elements. As the number of elements goes up the impedance goes down. Their highest gain figures are obtained at a very short  $\frac{1}{8}$  wavelength spacing, and this spacing changes the impedance also. A single loop exhibits about 2 db gain over a dipole. A two element array with driven and reflector on a  $\frac{1}{8}$  wave boom exhibits the same gain as a three element yagi with  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave spacing. It has a natural low angle of radiation (good for DX) at lower heights than yagis. It is a quiet receive antenna due to being a closed loop. Since it is a full wave loop shaped in a square it can be described and modeled as a dipole over a dipole. This causes the two dipoles to interact and lower the take off angle of the antenna independent of the ground. Ground effects helps this also but it is not as critical as a yagi which relies totally on height above ground for its' take off angle. (all of this info is taken from Bill Orr's 'Quad Antenna Handbook' c. 1978---considered the bible of quad theory and design texts) Of course I have to talk about why quads are not usually found in northern climes. The old ones made with bamboo and aluminum, or various other materials just did not hold up well to ice. These new units use a polymer reinforced fiberglass spreader arms that are tough and flexible. The polymer reinforces and adds, with other additives, sun resistance. It flexes and bends under loading but recovers without damage. The Cubex page

(<http://www.cubex.com>) has several pictures of such from owners with their stories. They are shown bending in wind storms and twisted into big pretzels with ice but returning to normal without damage. Cubex preferred feed system uses  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave 75 ohm matching coax stubs. The bands are independently fed using a remote coax switch or a compromise system uses a custom matching transformer with two ratios into a single coax feed. I chose the former because I had a remote coax switch already. The transformer system is quite a bit cheaper and thus Bob chose this method of feed. The cost of the three matching stubs are \$62 and the remote Ameritron RCS8v 5 position coax switch was \$149. this adds considerably to the \$400 cost of the quad. The WARC 12 and 17 add-ons was \$26. We both chose the Skymaster kit model since we had access to a couple of well equipped shops and could measure, cut and drill holes in spreaders. The materials in the Mark II (pre-cut and measured) are identical. The only difference is you have to cut, drill, and assemble the spreader arms and measure the wire. Seeing there is \$208 difference we figured we could do the kit form and save some money. Actually that is what I would recommend to anyone with a little bit of mechanical ability and some tools. The assembly was straight-forward and easy to do with good, concise directions given.

Since the company is in Alto, MI (east of Grand Rapids) Bob volunteered to pick them both up for us. Roger, the owner, even drove part way to meet Bob. When we ordered the quads he was back ordered on the matching transformers, and since Bob's was to be the first to go up, we waited. It took about three weeks for them to come in. As soon as Bob picked them up I ran north to his place for a weekend joined by Al, K3AAD and Paul, AA8OZ. Of course we have to give credit to Linda, Bob's wife and chef and her assistant goddess in the kitchen Carol (Al's wife). We ate even better than FD if that is possible to contemplate. Bob had to rent a bucket truck from the local rental outlet. That proved to be a godsend with his tower tucked into the trees along the house. Even with a fold over tower we could not have done it without cutting down some beautiful white pines. So, after assembly, we strapped the assembled quad onto the basket of the boom and I proceeded to bob and weave around the trees to stick it on top of tower. We had previously gin-poled the rotor and mast into place along with routing the new feed line and rotor wire. Of course we had set backs and problems but this is the condensed version and it is also rated G since some of our language during trying times certainly was not. Once mounted in place, coax connected, rotor aimed, etc it was time to test SWR curves. In a word, they sucked. Where did we go wrong? The placement of the transformer forced us to change lengths of driven wires to

—Continued on Page 6

## Have You Ever Wondered?

Fred Regan, N&DV

**S**OMETIMES WHEN THERE is a 2 meter band opening, I hear a station with the call of K8TIH from Bowling Green, Ohio and a rather spooky sounding voice announces "from the dark black swamp, this is K8TIH" Recently, this piqued my interest in what is the dark black swamp? Now some of you may already know what it is, but I didn't.

I am a student of Michigan history but never really heard of the swamp. So inquiring minds want to know, I first contacted the Wood County Amateur Radio Club who owns the repeater and has a very nice web site. The president of the WCRAC emails me back with a small history of the swamp. This was just enough to get me going. By the way, it's his voice you hear on the repeater through a reverb unit to make it even spookier.

So I did a Google search and came up with a rather interesting article from the Ohio historical society in 1987 on the great black swamp. I will excerpt it here. The original article is too long, some thirteen or so pages and the details may not interest everyone. The length will be like a woman's skirt, long enough to cover the subject but short enough to be interesting.

The Great Black Swamp  
by Carolyn V. Platt

[from "TIMELINE" - a publication of the Ohio Historical Society - February-March 1987]

[Printed in the April & July 1987 issues of "The Towpath" by Editor Janet Fledderjohn]

This waterland was once enormous. It stretched south of the Maumee River, 30 to 40 miles wide, for 120 miles from the Sandusky River in the east, nearly to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the west. It crossed the area of ten counties, and was poorly drained by four rivers: the Maumee, the Auglaize, the Portage, and the Sandusky. Water stood in it during the wetter seasons, and moisture oozed underfoot in all but the driest periods. Beginning with the Indians, almost everyone avoided its knee-deep mud and ravenous mosquitoes. Indian villages ringed the swamp, and a look at any map shows that later settlements followed their example. Port Clinton, Fremont, Findlay, Delphos, Van Wert, Fort Wayne, Defiance, Napoleon, Maumee, and Toledo fall into a clockwise pattern around the old swampland's edge. Only Bowling Green lies in its heart.

The glaciers prepared the land for the swamp. They ground down the country's earlier relief, and when they melted about 12,000 years ago, they formed Lakes Maumee, Whittlesey and Warren earlier, and larger versions of present Lake Erie. As the lakes in turn withdrew, they left behind a pavement-flat plain covered with fine, clay sediment impervious to water and crossed occasionally by low moraines and old, sandy beach ridges.

These were the factors that formed the big morass: a slope toward the northeast of only about four feet each mile, fine blue clay subsoil that cupped water, and low beach ridges that ran across the direction of drainage. For a while, the area must have been a vast cattail marsh, busy with waterfowl, but natural plant succession gradually formed a thick swamp forest. Ancient elm and ash trees grew with

their roots in the standing waters, with massive oaks and hickories on the sandy beach ridges. Windfalls, especially the tumbled trees uprooted by occasional tornadoes, together with the deep, heavy mud, made the region almost impassable. No one knows the origin of the name "Black Swamp". Nineteenth-century land speculators claimed that it referred to the rich black soil, but it seems just as likely that early travelers were thinking about the forest's gloom and its feeling of ominous remoteness.

Northwestern Ohio remained Indian territory later than most areas of the state, and important Ottawa villages dotted the Maumee Valley until the end of the eighteenth century. In 1794 Anthony Wayne marveled at "the very extensive and highly cultivated fields" that lay at the present site of Defiance, where the Auglaize enters the Maumee. The first decades of the nineteenth century saw the tribes ceding more and more of their lands through a series of treaties. Gradually, removed even from their reservations, the Indian exodus left the territory open to white penetration.

But settlement had scarcely touched the land by 1820. Settlers numbered 1,781 that year in the first federal census to include northwestern Ohio. One reason for the delay in taking up the land was the letters and journals of less-than-enchanted soldiers fighting in the War of 1812. Robert Lucas, probably the first to write about the Black Swamp by that name, reported in his journal: "Started from the foot of the Rapids [Maumee] to meet the army, proceeded through the wilderness towards Urbana, traveled about 25 miles - a very rainy day, and then encamped in what is called the Black Swamp, had a disagreeable night of wet and "Muskatoes".

Others complained bitterly of mud that reached their horses' saddle skirts and that oozed ankle-deep in their tents at night.

Both transportation problems and the financial panics of 1819 and 1837 caused settlement to lag after the war. In an attempt to retain control of Detroit, General William Hull's army had marched there from Urbana, Ohio in 1812, building Hull's Trace directly south to north through the heart of the swamp in Wood County. But that was merely a sodden wagon track. Another route was badly needed to cut through the swamp that blocked travel between the Western Reserve and the growing settlements in southeastern Michigan.

In 1823 Congress authorized the Maumee and Western Reserve Road from Sandusky to the Maumee Rapids (now the site of Maumee, southwest of Toledo). Completed in 1827, the route soon became notorious as "perhaps the worst road on the continent," according to the History of Sandusky County. Many travelers preferred to brave Lake Erie squalls by boat or to travel overland through Ontario to reach Detroit. A tavern stood at every mile on the road between Fremont and Maumee to offer mired travelers lodging and other solace. Settlers made cash by pulling stalled teams out of mudholes.

—Continued on Page 2

### The Great Quad Project—From Page 4

compensate. Note: looking back it would be better to recalculate the drilling holes in spreader arms to account for this rather than try to force it—of course hindsight being 20/20.

The matching points were not as good as I had hoped. 20 meters was the worse, being above 3 to 1 across the band. After much gnashing of teeth, consulting the quad book, and talking to Roger at Cubex, we decided we would rather do the individual switched feeds and get rid of the transformer. Roger even volunteered to pay for rental of the boom truck so Bob could make the repairs. We asked Roger to send Bob a switch and matching stubs, and bill him for difference. We did put the quad on the air that day though with both Bob's 756 Pro II and Paul's, K1 QRP radio. Paul made a couple of DX contacts on CW with 2 watts and I made five DX contacts in a row, busting pile ups on first call every time. The auto tuner in these radios took care of the SWR fine. So, even though we did not have a nice 50 ohm match, the quad was performing well. That was the end of that weekend. Two weeks later it was time to do mine. That is another story.

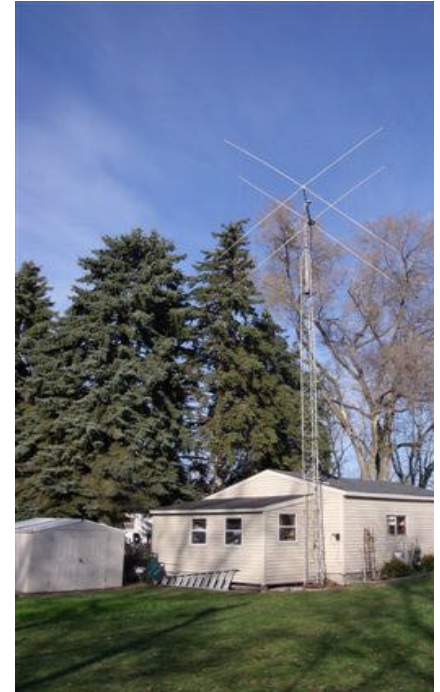
We held an antenna party at my place on a Saturday in November. We had beautiful weather. I THOUGHT I had planned everything...HA! We had problems with the fold over bracket for the aluminum tower I was putting up in place of the old steel one I had taken down in the same place. The new tower was 22" on center but old steel one was only 12" so we had to make massive alterations to the old steel mounting plate. After a rushed trip back out to Brian, AA8CY's (who did the original mods—THANKS BRIAN) all was well but our light was gone for the day. Sunday I re-did the measurements on driven elements, then while taking tower up it broke away from the hoist cable and crashed to ground breaking one of the spiders near the outer end. Since they are three piece I only needed only one piece. A call was placed to Roger at Cubex and he said he would get one out to me right away. SO, Monday the part was waiting on my porch from Fedex. After drilling and re-stringing the wires, the antenna was pulled back up in air with new cable from winch doubled over on itself and a new pulley added to give it more UMPH! All was pretty good except 20m, which was a flat 2.0 to 1 across band, going no lower anywhere. After contacting Roger, he told me he had included a matching stub for 20m for both Bob and I with new Antenna switch I had ordered and it should be there soon. The following weekend I replaced the 20m feeder with the 75 ohm one from Cubex and replaced the old 4 position remote switch with the new one with 5 positions. SWR curves came out MUCH better as you can see in the included SWR graphs below. Basically I can go anywhere on 12-20m with less than a 2 to 1 SWR. I have from 28 to 28.8 with less than 2 to 1 on 10m.

Roger sent everything without any bill of any kind. When contacted, he told me to send him a check for the Switch and Bob's parts were free. That is way above what we agreed on. This guy really treated us GREAT! He had even

FED-EX'd the fiberglass spreader arm and would not charge me for it either. It was not a warranty, I had dropped the tower so he had no reason to warrant the part, but he did anyway. So, now I have been playing with it for about two weeks as I write this and I am WAY IMPRESSED! It busts through pile-ups usually on first call, and DX stations almost always give me a 59 signal report. One guy asked me what type of amp I was running and was flabbergasted when I told him I don't own one. Since the weather has closed in on us for this year, Bob's will be retrofitted in the spring. He reports it is working well though through the tuner.

Bottom line is I love this Quad. I cannot say enough about Cubex and how well I was treated though all the little problems. They were trying and exasperating at the time but Roger made it more than right. I don't want to sound like a commercial but I guess I am being one anyway. We talk about what we like and dislike about anything we do and this project was no exception. You can look up the excellent products of Cubex at: <http://www.cubex.com>

73, es Good DX,  
Bill



In March of 2008 I wrote a short article on how I handle sending QSL cards. I still use the same method of contacting the ham operators via e mail .Below is a response from a recent contact I made on 17 meters. As you can see all of the necessary information was sent back to me on what that person required for return postage. Using this method has given me a 95% return rate.

—Leonard, N8YBY

Hi Leonard.

You are in my log at 16.10 GMT today November 16th.

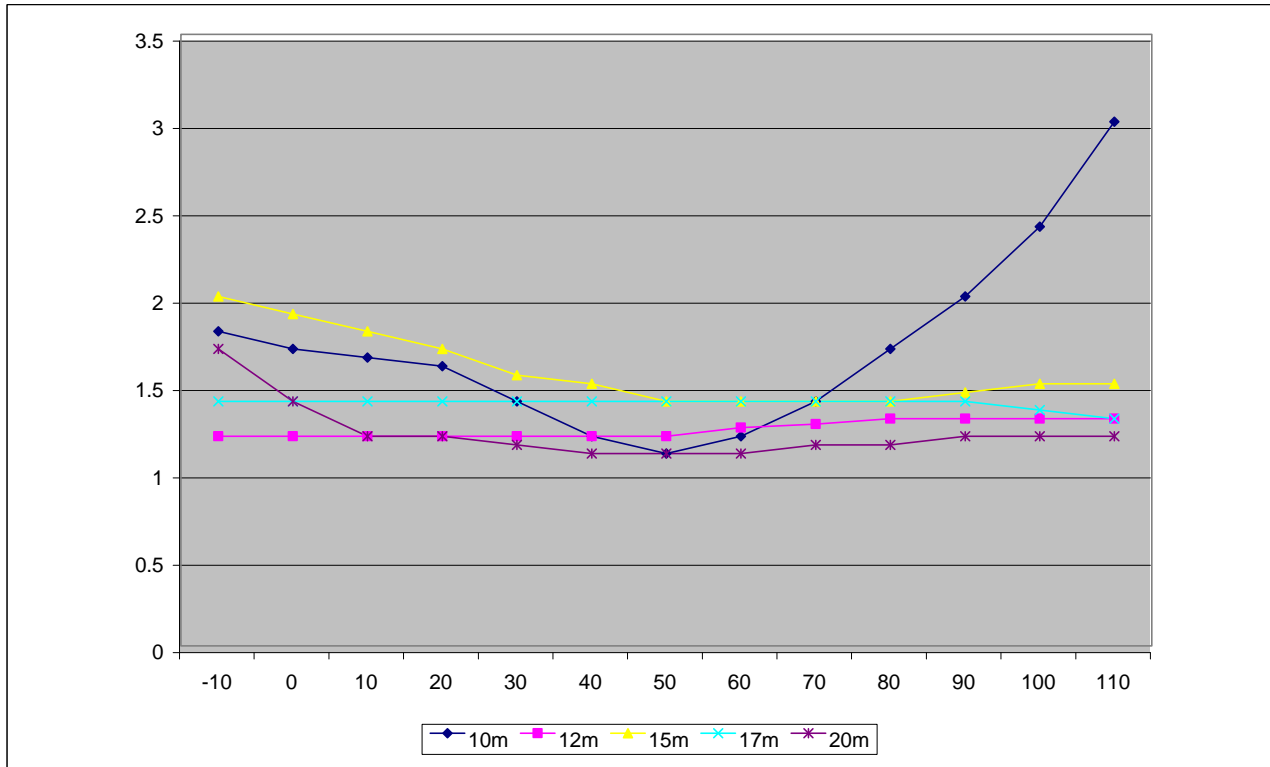
For direct card 1USD or 1 IRC is ok.

For buro you do not need any of it.

73 juan

## N8SA's Skymaster 2

### SWR Curves of Cubex 2 element 5 band quad at 45 feet



#### SWR data across Bands

<u>% of Band</u>	<u>10m</u>	<u>12m</u>	<u>15m</u>	<u>17m</u>	<u>20m</u>
-10	1.8	1.2	2	1.4	1.7
0	1.7	1.2	1.9	1.4	1.4
10	1.65	1.2	1.8	1.4	1.2
20	1.6	1.2	1.7	1.4	1.2
30	1.4	1.2	1.55	1.4	1.15
40	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.1
50	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.1
60	1.2	1.25	1.4	1.4	1.1
70	1.4	1.27	1.4	1.4	1.15
80	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.15
90	2	1.3	1.45	1.4	1.2
100	2.4	1.3	1.5	1.35	1.2
110	3	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.2

#### Frequency Band Limits

<u>10m</u>	<u>12m</u>	<u>15m</u>	<u>17m</u>	<u>20m</u>
28-29	24.8-25	21-21.5	18.0-18.2	14.0-14.4

**NOTE:**

Left side of chart is SWR. Frequency Limits for each band is defined in data above. Bottom of chart is % of band limits. All SWR data taken from MFJ 259B Analyzer.

SWR was later confirmed with my radio SWR meter while on the air.

**NOTE ALSO:** Band limits given are wider than the ham bands so this antenna actually goes outside the band--good for MARS/ CAP use.

**Meeting Minutes—From Page 1**

Field Day Report from Bill: We placed 4th in our class for 2009.

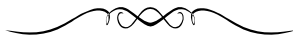
**New Business:** KI8HJ Larry will serve as USECA's SATURN liaison.

**Old Business:** Winter Field Day. W8SOX Larry asked the board to approve \$150 for food. W8NIC Larry moved that we approve the request, Chuck seconded. The motion carried.

Rob moved that we adjourn, Larry seconded, the motion carried.

Meeting ended at 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Lifton, NY8W  
Recording Secretary



**General Meeting — December, 2009**

**In attendance:**

- Bill, N8SA                    President
- Ed, KD8CXJ                Vice-President
- Rob, NY8W                Recording Secretary
- Dennis, W8DFG            Treasurer
- Joe, N8OZ                 Membership Secretary
- Jim, WY8I                 Board Member
- Larry, W8NIC             Board Member
- Chuck, N8ZA             Board Member
- Walt, WB8E              Past President

\*Absent

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

58 attendees and guests signed in

First timers were recognized

New licensees and upgrades were recognized

A round of applause for the kitchen crew

The microphone was passed around and all attendees introduced themselves.

Dave WD8IFL offered a motion to accept the November general meeting as printed in the Express. Alec NF8X seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurers' report was read by Dennis.

Ed moved that we accept the treasurer's report. Chuck N8UJ seconded and the motion carried.

Joe reported that as of tonight's meeting we have 172 paid members.

Tech director's report given by Jim W1IK: Made a site visit to our main transmit site today. Installed new air filters. There will be some visits to our remote sites in the coming months.

Inter club liaison report read by Jim K8LFE

Trustee report given by Dennis: Repeater interference was discussed. Jim W1IK also mentioned that if unauthorized repeater use is heard that the control OP list is printed in the Express; call an OP and they will take care of it.

Michigan PRB-1 legislation was discussed

CB Interference was also discussed

**Old Business:**

Santa Clause Net: Jeff KD8CIA Saturday 19th 2-4pm. Detroit Public Library branch located on West Grand Blvd. The event takes place on our repeater.

**New Business:**

Winter Field Day: Larry W8SOX asked that attendees bring a dish to pass. The event will take place Jan 30, 31 at camp Camp Ozanam, located just outside of Lexington. The cost to participate is \$10 per person with all proceeds going to pay for the use of the camp.

Dave WD8IFL offered a DC power cord for ICOM to the first person to make a \$5.00 donation to the club. Don WB8F accepted and the club is five dollars richer.

At 8:10 pm we began the process of handing out ballots.

Following the break Bill discussed our new logging software and how it will all be networked and results will be available in real time. Thank you Jerry N8KLX for writing the software. Bill recommends using an ALFA USB adaptor for WI-FI such as the AWUS036H long range adaptor.

At 8:35 Bill turned the meeting over to Chuck for club officer elections. Chuck read the entire list of candidates and asked for last minute write in nominations; there were none. A number of candidates gave short speeches.

All ballots were determined to be in at 8:45 pm and the counting began.

At 9:15 pm the election results were announced:

- President: Larry W8SOX
- Vice President: Dan N8ZBA
- Treasurer: Dennis W8DFG
- Membership Secretary: Ray K8RDJ
- Recording Secretary: Rob NY8W
- Board Member: Larry W8NIC
- Board Member: Chuck N8ZA
- Board Member: Walt WB8E

As a result of the election Bill N8SA will serve as past president for 2010

At this time Jim W1IK made a motion to adjourn and Steve N8XO seconded.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Lifton, NY8W  
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	8:00 pm	Digital	145.550
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	6:00 pm	USECA/75 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	9:00 pm	USECA/80 Meter CW	3.570
FRI	10:00 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	KD8CXJ
2	N8ZA	-OPEN-	KD8CXJ
3	-OPEN-	N8EB	KD8CXJ
4	WB8E	KD8GZE	KD8CXJ
5*	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	KD8CXJ

\*If applicable

\*\*Traders/Tech Support

Updated 12/09

NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement or contact Chuck. N8ZA (586) 557-4983—Don't wait!

# USECA

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

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**JANUARY 2010**



January Meeting Presentation  
"Winter Field Day"



***"The Happenin' Club"***

## Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
JAN	11	7:30 pm	General Meeting
JAN	18	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
FEB	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting
FEB	15	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
MAR	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAR	15	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
APR	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting
APR	19	7:00 pm	VE Test Session

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