



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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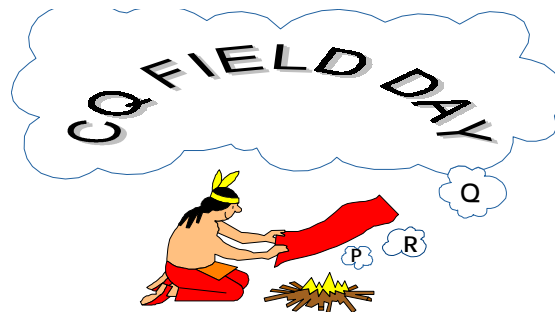
CQ Field Day

Ken, N8KC

ALTHOUGH VARIOUS forms of this article have appeared in the *Express* several times over the years, the rules below are required reading for those of you who are new to Amateur Radio and USECA's Field Day operation.

Boy! Has it been another year already? Field Day 2000 weekend (June 24-25th) is closin' in fast (only a few weeks away now!). Are you ready? Can we make "Top Ten" yet again? Will the weather cooperate this year? Will the bands be open? This is USECA's *premier* event of the year,

annually drawing over 300 members and visitors—come on



out, bring a friend, play some radio, socialize, eat great, and get the answers to these questions and more at **USECA's FIELD DAY 2000!**

During the week or so prior to Field Day, help will be needed in cutting the field at Jim's place and general preparations on-site (volunteers for mess tent repairs are generally needed the weekend prior to Field Day). Monitor the repeater for calls for volunteers. Friday, June 23rd, 2 p.m., is the beginning of our set-up period—we'll need plenty of strong backs to help in setting up the kitchen and tents, hookin' up power and water, and getting our Field Day site ready for competition.

—Continued on Page 9

Kitchen2000

Dennis, W8DFG

GREETINGS AND Salutations to one and all from Kitchen2000. Just to bring everyone up to date on what is happening this year at the mess tent, we do have some changes that will take effect this year.

First of all, this year to help offset the cost for food for Field Day, anyone not participating in anyway shape or form will be charged a small nominal fee for any meal they partake in. The Station Chairs will distribute bands for anyone working under them, the rest will be taken care of by myself.

Pray tell what do I mean when I say PARTICIPATE. Just what the word says, this includes anything from canvas repair, which will be held on June 10th or 11th, to setting up the mess tents, or helping with a station. So to make a long story short, if you come out to the Field Day site to visit and not help out you will be paying the following fare:

Breakfast will be \$1.00, Lunch will be \$2.00, Friday night will be \$2.00, and Saturday night will be \$3.00.

Second of all, USECA will not be giving soft drinks away this year. Last year we had the pop donated, and that fell through for this year. We will have pop and bottle water to purchase for \$.50, we will also have lemonade to give out, or bring your own liquid refreshments out to Field Day. I hope everyone understands that these actions are to help defray the cost of USECA's biggest single weekend liability.

The Saturday night dinner this year will not be steak, but the other white meat, we will be cooking a Pig. For this meal, we ask that if you are coming out to eat Saturday night that you bring a dish to pass. If you did not pick up your disposable tin at the May meeting, I will make them available at the Fox Hunt in June.

This year the mess tent will not have the luxury of setting up early, therefore I will be needing help to set everything up at 2:00 p.m., like the rest of the Field Day site. So if you are not committed to helping, you know were to go to help out.

Don't forget to participate. I held a Kitchen meeting at the end of March, which at that time the usual women of USECA volunteered to help at the mess tent. So, if you want to meet these fine ladies, come out and lend a helping hand. Brian will have his handy dandy truck there to pick up stuff and whatever. So, here again if you have a need to volunteer, please do so.

If you have any questions, please give me a call on the repeater, or call me at home. My number is elsewhere in this copy of the *Express*.

73.

Next Meeting (and Fox Hunt) — June 13

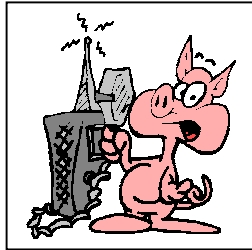
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f= Founder c= Charter h= Hon. Charter

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

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF (k8oef@tir.com)



It's that time of the year . . . summer! This means many things to many people. One of the main things is rest and relaxation—this includes the entire editorial staff of the Express—their well-deserved vacation will be during the months of July and August. In case you haven't noticed, there is no testing and no meetings during these months. So . . . have a great, safe and fun-filled summer; we'll be back with the September issue.

While I have your attention, be sure to check out the information regarding a new/special/different kind of net during July and August—details on page 12. 73 for now.



Picnic Time



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USECA via ARRL

Ken, N8KC

WE'VE EXPANDED TO over 250 members in the last ten years, even as many other clubs have experienced a reduction in membership. Much of our success in the past 10 years has been due to our club's purposeful outreach to new hams in the area, especially no-coders.

During the summer months, we've usually no less than 5 'theme' campouts scheduled, thanks to our 'Campout Queen', Dina (N8YJI) and several other 'Ladies of USECA' who graciously volunteer to help with planning and logistics, year after year.

For over 10 years now we've held a well-advertised Pre-Field Day (in May) in a nearby public park, annually drawing 70-80 members and as many as 7 or 8 fully portable/mobile HF/VHF stations (in fact, our Pre-Field Day boasts more stations than many clubs can dream of organizing on Field Day). We also hold an annual 'picnic', which is attended by 85-100 members on the shore of Lake St. Clair (again, 4-6 portable HF/VHF stations are set up for ham enjoyment).

Halloween, Christmas, and New Year's have also been excuses for USECA parties for many years. The Salvation Army makes their meeting room available for well-attended VE exam sessions and Saturday-night socials. On-the-air activities include a 2m repeater in Utica, Michigan (147.180) and 9 nets—including a Monday night MXW 'Teaching net' on our repeater for those wishing to learn Morse code. For more information, visit our Web site at <http://useca.org>. I can be reached at kcfamily@tir.com

New Field Day Shirt

Ken, N8KC

Field Day 2000 Sweatshirts/T-shirts are being ordered now! See Unca' Walt (WB8E) for prices and to place your order. Hurry! The new design for 2000 is *sure* to be a hit—with graphics based around Underdog and Sweet Polly Purebred—the *latest* new members of USECA! Get YOURS today and be *stylin'* come Field Day!! **CASH ONLY, PLEASE!** with your order, no CODs, checks or IOUs.

Also, talk to Jeff (KF8XO) for info on 'QRM 2000' tour iron-ons for the back of your shirt. (USECA's all-ham band)



A Great Offer!

World Radio Magazine

Ken, N8KC

For the last two to three years, World Radio Magazine has run 8-10 issues annually with a 'Send-a-Friend' offer on one of the inside pages. Using this offer, I've regularly sent 7 other members of USECA a free issue of World Radio for the cost of a stamp each month—those *same* Hams, upon receiving their issue can do the same with the cut-out from their magazine. A pyramid scheme, that could work in our favor, if ever I saw one! If you receive a World Radio magazine (whether you're a subscriber or not), grab a club roster and fill out the 'Send-a-Friend' form with the addresses of fellow USECAns (non-WR-subscribers). Stuff the form in an envelope and mail it to the indicated address. Treat your friends to a *great* magazine. Heck, the articles of Kurt N. Sterba on antennas *alone* make the magazine a wealth of information for any ham.

The Best Things in Radio

John, N8SE

ONCE UPON A TIME a guy stuck a few wires together and the previous world no longer existed. That spark of electricity shot around the world and the place will never be the same. Always advancing, never stopping, like the planet's rotation.

Some of the first plans for this new tool included lights and communications. Well, the lighting has yet to stop evolving and the communications have probably improved since I started writing this article.

Today's modern communications are a miracle to some and a God send to others. I am really proud to be part of the Amateur radio communications evolution and I hope to see it continue to change and get better.

Since I became a ham only two years ago there have been great changes in our hobby. Just look at all the HF/VHF/UHF capabilities that the radio companies stick into a case that's smaller than what a 2 meter mobile rig used to look like. The HT's that can send digital messages faster that you can type them.

Position reports of your loved ones via APRS. Getting your email while on vacation through your HF rig. [Tim Allen grunt].

There might be a price for all this new and exciting technology; we're not sure yet. The price might be frequency re-allocation and it might not make a lot of folks happy. Back over 75 years ago there was this thing called a spark-gap transmitter.

—Continued on Page 5

A Discussion On

One Aspect of Atypical VHF Propagation

Floyd, W8RO

DURING THE PAST SEVERAL years, the USECA repeater (and others in SE Mich.) has been heard in the Central Lower Peninsula (CLP) fairly regularly. The region we are studying is that portion of the LP that falls approximately in the area bordered by West Branch to the north, Bad Axe to the east, Bridgeport to the south and US-27 to the west. This area is approx. 75-135 miles from the Metropolitan Detroit area.

Since none of the repeaters in SE Michigan are coordinated to "cover" this area, hams that live within this area may feel that these repeaters are operating excessive power, excessive antenna heights or both. Experts tell us that there are many different "band enhancements" that can affect 2M propagation. We will confine this discussion to one particular aspect of propagation and not to the many other "enhancements" that can also (and do) contribute to this problem.

In an effort to determine the reason(s) that the USECA repeater is heard regularly in the CLP, the USECA Technical Committee began an investigation in the summer of 1999. This ongoing investigation consists of two parts, first, there is a fact-finding mission; and second, many of us hit the books and began studying peculiarities in VHF propagation.

The first and most important fact that was established is the actual coverage area of the USECA repeater system. On a map, we drew circles centered on the transmitter site at 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 miles radii. Then, using the mobile model specified in the MARC Standards to establish both TX and RX coverage, it was determined that under non-enhanced band conditions, system coverage was almost always within the 25-mile radius. Obviously, there were exceptions to this. Due to terrain, in some areas the coverage area does not reach the 25-mile radius. There

are also areas that coverage extended to better than 30 miles. These two exceptions were not the rule, though, but true exceptions!

With this being the case, why is our repeater heard so regularly in the CLP? The explanation may lie in part to "knife-edge refraction"! What is this, you say? I will quote "The ARRL Antenna Book", 16th edition, pages 23-10 and 23-11. From the heading of "Reliable VHF Coverage," sub-heading of "About Terrain", here are the pertinent passages:

"Help for the valley dweller often lies in the optical phenomenon known as knife-edge refraction. A flashlight beam pointed at the edge of a partition does not cut off sharply at the partition edge, but is refracted around it, partially illuminating the shadow area. A similar effect is observed with VHF waves passing over ridges; there is a shadow effect, but not a complete blackout.

If the signal is strong when it strikes the mountain range (or ridge), it will be heard well in the bottom of the valley on the far side. Where only one ridge lies in the way, signals on the far side may be almost as good as on the near. Under ideal conditions, (a very high and sharp-edged obstruction near the midpoint of a long enough path so that signals would be weak over average terrain), knife-edge refraction may yield signals even stronger than would be possible with an open path! (In addition,) Rolling terrain, where obstructions are not sharp enough to produce knife-edge refraction, still does not exhibit a complete shadow effect."

With this in mind, note the attached graphic. This is a vertical "slice" exposing the side view of the topography of a bearing line that was drawn from our transmitter site through Gladwin to Elk Rapids. The far-left edge of the graphic (Wpt 1) is our transmitter site, and Elk Rapids (Wpt 2) is at the far right of the page. (Obviously, the scale of the

vertical axis is far different than the horizontal axis; in order to fit this information on a letter sized sheet of paper or on the screen of the monitor)

Looking at the Utica location at 0 miles, please note that as we travel NW toward Gladwin, we climb the ridge that is located in the area around Flint. Looking at a topographic relief map of the LP bears this out. This ridge climbs to over 1,000' ASL, then drops off quickly to around 600' ASL in the Saginaw Valley (approx. 80 miles out), then climbs steadily to the peak of the second ridge approx. where West Branch is (approx. 135 miles out). Then there is the large, relatively high elevation area in the NLP, before descending to the Elk Rapids area near Lake Michigan some 230 miles out.

Gladwin is located 120 miles out, on the far side of the Saginaw Valley. Just check the elevations and again, you'll see that the area about 750' ASL (give or take) is where Gladwin is located. Confining the remainder of this discussion to this portion of the illustration, you'll note that RF energy radiating from our antenna will strike the top of the ridge 30 miles out. At this point, it is entirely likely that the peak of this ridge is refracting our signal.

As the ARRL Antenna Book suggests, enough of this energy is being refracted down toward the Saginaw Valley to make the repeater audible. As you can see, with Gladwin at the far side of the valley and up slightly from the floor of the valley, it is directly in the path of this redirected energy. As a matter of fact, the second ridge that is about 50 miles out may actually be a factor that could potentially contribute to the redirection of this energy toward the Saginaw Valley floor as well as the far side of the valley.

—Continued on Page 8

Volunteers Needed MS 150 Bike Tour

George, K8GEO

Volunteers are urgently needed to provide communications on the two-meter band for two Multiple Sclerosis Society Bike Tours.

One bike tour, the MS 150, will begin on Saturday, July 15 at the Oakland County Springfield Oaks Park near Davisburg and the route will be to East Lansing and then return on Sunday, July 16.

We are requesting that you consider volunteering for both days of the MS 150. Your overnight lodging at Michigan State University, dinner, and breakfast will be provided free of charge. You may also work either Saturday or Sunday.

The other MS bike tour will be on Sunday, July 16 and will start and finish at Springfield Oaks Park. The route will be 60 miles long and with a separate mountain bike course. Most of the route will lie to the west and north of the park.

These bike tours have had 850 to 1,000 cyclists in the past and have collectively raised more than \$680,000 annually for MS research and service programs.

To volunteer your time or if you have any questions about the events, please call:

Jim Heyl, N8QMD

Amateur Radio Coordinator
(313) 963-2300 (office)

or

(248) 393-2828 (home 6-11 p.m.)

Please don't delay! Make a commitment! Call Jim as soon as possible so all staffing details can be completed, THANKS!

If you have questions concerning this information you can also call:

George Schutte, K8GEO

(248) 651-8615 10a.m-9:00p.m.

Oakland County Early Warning Siren Tests

George, K8GEO

The Amateur Radio Public Service Corps. (ARPSC) in its support of the Oakland County Emergency Management Department early warning siren system, is in need of volunteer two meter radio operators to monitor the once a month tests of the sirens. Of the 181 sirens in Oakland County, 14 are in the communities of Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills.

Volunteers in Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills would be assigned to monitor the test of a specific siren at 1:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of the month, during the months of March thru November.

The assignment typically takes only about one hour for travel time, check-in, and test reporting to the sub-net control operator.

Reliable operation of the sirens is important for successful bad weather early warning alerts that can save lives in our communities.

Here's a chance for hams to serve our neighbors in partial repayment of our radio license privileges.

If you are interested in volunteering, or would like further information, please contact George Schutte, K8GEO at (248) 651-8615 between 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. or at any club meeting.



The Best Things —From Page 3

It came in handy at one time in our history and saved a lot of lives, but it was replaced by a better system that allowed for more than one conversation at a time. Did someone miss it? Probably. Do I, no. Are we better off with the newer capabilities that we have since we moved on, for sure.

I received my Extra license before the April 2000 change, but I absolutely agree with the reduction

to 5 WPM. I whole-heartedly accept my new General and Extra peers and that is the main reason I volunteered to be part of the now famous Midnight test session. I never saw the point in needing to know how to receive CW at 20 WPM if you want to use Phone privileges. Do you need to learn to fly a plane before you can get an automobile driver's license (maybe it would help some people? I

know many people in our great club who put in the time, and still after many years could not master the artful skill of CW. Should they continue to be looked down upon by those with the great skill of sending code? I don't think so. I would like to see one person hell-bent on saving the 20 WPM requirement tell all the new Extras in the club, face-to-face, that they are not worthy to be amongst their greatness.

On the other hand, I will stand up in front of the club and welcome our newest upgrades with open arms. Maybe those wanting higher Morse code speeds should travel to Istanbul for the year 2000 World Radio Communication conference. Do not get me wrong, I do not hate CW. I choose at this time not to practice that skill, but I do not see the logic in protecting that one method of communications over the dozens of others that radio operators enjoy every day and the ones that will exist tomorrow.

I hope to sit back and vicariously enjoy watching our club's highly skilled operators click away on the key and the smile on the faces of the rest of the club who can now fully enjoy our ham radio spectrum.

Oh yeah, one more thing. I forgot to mention my point and the title of the article. With all the new technology and changes to our hobby, there is still one thing that remains as the Best Thing in Radio. That's YOU!

No Code

Richard N8MQ

NO-CODE International™ is an organization dedicated to the abolition of the Morse code testing requirement as a prerequisite for any class of Amateur Radio license. NCI™ will continue as a lobbying organization as long as the manual telegraphy testing requirement exists.

What we believe. We want to make a few points crystal clear:

1. NCI is not opposed to manual Morse code operation. But CW is just another mode and should not be afforded any special priority over others. It is available to those who wish to use it. Morse proficiency should not be required for those who do not wish to use the mode.

2. Manual radiotelegraphy communications has been superseded

by more modern, reliable, accurate, faster and efficient means of communication.

3. Requiring manual telegraphy proficiency is not compatible with the radio amateur's mandated objective of contributing to the advancement of the radio art.

4. No evidence exists that Morse proficiency is an indicator of a desirable, motivated or better qualified operator.

5. The Morse code requirement serves as an advancement barrier to many otherwise qualified individuals.

6. The value of Morse code communications in the Amateur Service is primarily recreational in nature and manual telegraphy proficiency should no longer be a compulsory licensing requirement

for any class of Amateur Radio license.

In the United States, the American Radio Relay League—a powerful Amateur Radio organization—has long been a strong proponent for the continuation of manual code requirements.

No-Code International is not an anti-ARRL group. Instead it is one dedicated to getting ARRL's members and leaders, as well as regulatory officials world-wide, to change their minds on the manual code issue. NCI will also deal directly with national and international regulators to end the manual telegraphy license testing requirement.

For more information go to www.nocode.org

Ham University

Michael Crick

HAM UNIVERSITY is the premiere Windows program for studying for your FCC Exams. The latest version, 2.001, lets you study and practice with the latest Question Pools due to go into effect April 15th—as well as helping you learn Morse code.

You can test yourself on written questions that are giving you a problem or you can take a mock exam to see how you would do. In addition to a formal series of CW lessons, HamU contains a wealth of practice exercises and the popular

game, Pentode®, designed to make learning the code fun.

Ham University is sold over the Internet by the author (Michael Crick) and in retail stores by Time-wave Inc.—currently under the name Morse University. This new release is a free upgrade for owners of version 2.000 and is half price to owners of earlier versions of Ham University.

You can learn more about Ham University at our web site (at <http://crick.com/Hamu>) or you can check out a fully featured demo

copy for a week by going to <http://crick.com/hamu/download.html>.

Michael F. C. Crick (mica@crick.com) at MICA

MICA is a family company located at 2845 - 140th Avenue NE, Seattle WA whose main products are Ham University and WordZap (The Action Word Game!). Michael Crick is a veteran programmer who previously worked on the development of Microsoft Windows, Word, Help, Access, Encarta, and the Internet—and also authored several popular computer games

From the Desk of La Grand Wazoo . . .

First of all I would like to thank Dreux and his Net Control staff as well as all who volunteered to work WalkAmerica 2000. It is good to see people, and not just from USECA, donate their time to help Saving Babies Together.

We had a total of 1600 walkers, raising \$175,000.00 at Metro Beach alone. Everyone at the MOD office

felt that we would have 2500 - 3000 people out at the beach due to seven other walk sites being eliminated, but we gladly accept the money from the walkers that did come out to Metro.

Also the Special Events station went rather well, and I am Sure Jerry, N8KLY will be giving a report on the outcome.

To finish off here, we finally had a beautiful weekend for the Walk. So once again, thanks to one and all for your support, because with you out there, my job as WalkChair for Metro Beach is much easier.

73.

Dennis, W8DFG

2000 USECA Membership Roster -- Updates

Call	First Name	Last Name	Phone	Address	City	St	Zip
KC8DBE	Charles	Cote		53755 Oakview Drive	Shelby Township	MI	48315
K8EN	Ken	Rehse	(313) 814-0333	P.O. Box 1119	Garden City	MI	48136
KC8EPR	Jerry	Whittemore	(810) 794-7944	537 Pte. Tremble Rd.	Algonac	MI	48001
KC8FES	Mark	McCauley	(810) 287-6616	5405 Rail View Ct.	Shelby Township	MI	48316
N8FNO	John	Wuestewald	(810) 264-7993	4520 Gardner	Sterling Heights	MI	48310
KC8FYQ	Gerald M.	Cayan	(248) 993-0043	310 S. Marais	Clawson	MI	48017
KC8HRH	Mark	Legato	(810) 296-7862	31528 Morgan	Warren	MI	48093
KG8IE	Scott	Kraft	(810) 978-1339	2540 Koper Dr	Sterling Heights	MI	48310
K8LJM	Jose	Llombart	(810) 792-2787	21211 Wakefield	Clinton Township	MI	48035
KC8LOC	Tom	Jenkins	(248) 542-3340	26708 Osmun	Madison Heights	MI	48071
N8MCD	James F.	Voight	(810) 752-4328	65270 Powell Road	Romeo	MI	48065
KC8MQL	Joe	Skues	(810) 491-8070	13335 15 Mile Road	Sterling Heights	MI	48312
KC8NUA	Dawn	White		8230 Essex	Warren	MI	48089
KC8NUB	Ronald	Whittemore	(810) 794-7944	537 Pte. Tremble Rd.	Algonac	MI	48001
KC8NYR	Susan	DeSchutter	(810) 346-3345	3170 Galbraith Line Rd.	Brown City	MI	48416
N8OAE	Ernest S.	Grevemeyer	(810) 774-7559	22475 Petersburg	Eastpointe	MI	48021
KB8PNS	Ron	Cole	(810) 939-7392	11060 Chicago Rd.	Warren	MI	48093
WB8QNI	Vance	Dupuis	(810) 739-3274	52612 Brookcrest Drive	Shelby Township	MI	48316
KB8QR	Joseph	Tori	(248) 375-8917	2452 S. Christian Hills Dr.	Rochester Hills	MI	48309
W8RO	Floyd	Soo	(248) 391-6660	8232 Woodview	Clarkston	MI	48348
N8SCQ	Bob	Beaupre	(248) 852-6197	3271 Fulham Dr.	Rochester Hills	MI	48309
N8SN	Chuck	Cook	(810) 329-7675	7489 Trumble	St. Clair	MI	48079
WB8T	Don	Chisholm	(248) 373-2388	2860 Davison	Auburn Hills	MI	48326
K8TXS	Alex J.	Henderson	(810) 739-0428	6032 Higgins St	Sterling Heights	MI	48314
K7VG	Clay	Fechter	(248) 814-6642	1168 Dutmer Terrace	Lake Orion	MI	48362
KB8VJD	David C.	Alden		20734 Charlevoix	Grosse Pte Farms	MI	48236
WN8VOT	Dave	Medley	(810) 798-3311	69800 Powell Rd.	Armada	MI	48005
N8VVH	Linda	Kraft	(810) 978-1339	2540 Koper Dr.	Sterling Heights	MI	48310
K8WH	David M.	Lockard	(810) 765-9407	6911 Plank Road	Marine City	MI	48039
N8XNM	Raymond	Macha	(810) 752-0839	64616 Limerick	Washington	MI	48095
N8XQD	James	Hagel	(810) 949-5737	50926 Nature Dr.	New Baltimore	MI	48047
WB8ZXI	Charles H.	Koprivnikar	(810) 264-0447	11123 Kentfield Dr.	Sterling Heights	MI	48312
	Kenneth	Krause	(248) 588-4321	30655 Westwood	Madison Heights	MI	48071

USECA VE Testing

Examinations for an Amateur License are held the on the first and third Saturday of each month (except July and August). Starting time is 7:15 p.m. — please do not arrive earlier. Walk-ins are welcomed. Pre-registration is not required. Test site is at the Salvation Army, 55 Church, Mt. Clemens. If testing, you must have the following: picture ID (or birth certificate); and a copy of your current license or completion certificates, if any. For more information and directions to the test site, call Bill, N8SA at: (810) 468-8345; (before 9:00 p.m.).



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

VHF Propagation —From Page 4

Numerous mobile radio tests seem to bear this out. As one drives north on I-75, the signal from the repeater always disappears by the time the vehicles reach Holly. From there on, through Grand Blanc, Flint, Flushing, Mt. Morris and Birch Run; the repeater's signal is not audible. When the USECA repeater is audible in the Saginaw Valley, it becomes audible again somewhere around Bridgeport, certainly in the floor of the valley. The signal is present much of the time in the Saginaw Valley and up the far slope past Gladwin to West Branch. Once beyond the top of the ridge at West Branch, the signal is no longer heard.

Our club members have observed this phenomenon for many years, as they travel regularly through the area, just as residents of the area have experienced it. Some members have even used an altimeter to verify the elevations seen on the maps. In addition, regular tropospheric ducting events

caused by the Great Lakes (in general) and the Saginaw Bay (in particular) may exacerbate this situation.

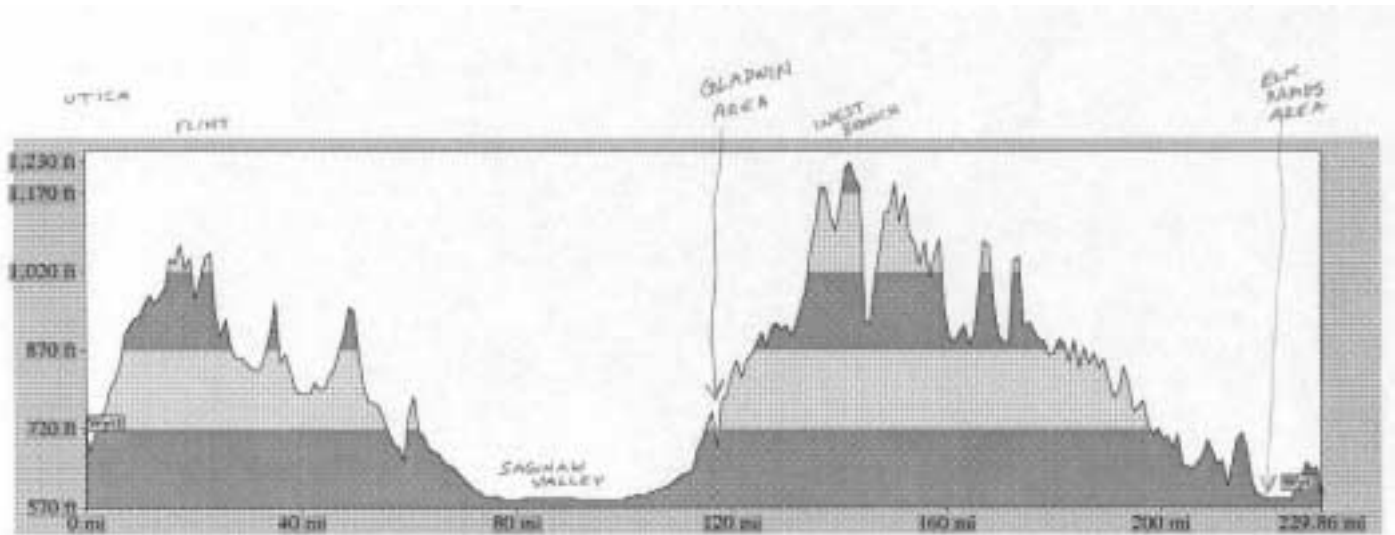
It is a well known fact that meteorologists study the Great Lakes' own weather systems and how they interact with the continent's weather. People that study radio wave propagation in this region treat it the same way. Again, the 16th edition of "The ARRL Antenna Book" makes mention of this on page 23-6, under the heading of "Tropospheric Propagation of VHF Waves". In part, the paragraph reads:

"Varied weather patterns over most of the earth's surface can give rise to boundaries between air masses of very different temperature and humidity characteristics. These boundaries can be anything from local anomalies to air-circulation patterns of continental proportions. Under stable weather conditions, large air masses can retain their characteristics for hours or even days at a time. Stratified warm dry air over cool moist air, flowing

slowly across the Great Lakes region to the Atlantic Seaboard, can provide the medium for east-west communication on 144 MHz and higher amateur frequencies over as much as 1200 miles."

In conclusion, there is enough evidence to indicate the possible existence of knife-edge refraction that warrants further study by everyone involved here in the CLP. There should be a concerted effort to investigate and identify its presence and characteristics, so we can all understand how it effects our daily communications.

Additional reference information is available in "Reference Data for Radio Engineers," 5th edition, pages 26-22 & 26-23. It gives a short summary of knife-edge refraction and provides a nomograph to calculate knife-edge refracted path loss compared to free space path loss. It references K. Bullington, "Radio Propagation Fundamentals," Bell System Technical Journal, vol. 36, no. 3, pages 593-626.



Due to conditions beyond our control, and for medical reasons, the Net Points Standings could not be included in this issue of the Express.

CQ Field Day —From Page 1

This year, station set up (kitchen included), will not take place before 2 p.m. Friday night starting about 8 p.m., join in the fun with USECA's own all-Ham Rock Band, "QRM," as we rock into USECA's Field Day 2000 weekend. Bring your own "adult beverages" and party till midnight or later! (those of you who wish to play/sing along with "QRM," please check with the band so you know what to expect and what's expected of you. see W8RO, W8IC, W8SLR, or WB8H. Be prepared to bring your own equipment).

Field Day Station Chairs: If your field day station is not fully prepared by now, you'd better get serious. Be sure to have plans for a replacement rig (you never know when one will lose it's "Magic Smoke"), a backup antenna, and a way to get all your gear to the Field Day site and set up. Reconfirm now, those generous offers of assistance and equipment made months ago. Check out your tower or other antenna support now to save frustration and delays on-site later. The use of quality bandpass filters (not high/low pass) is mandatory for every station (excepting Novice/Tech, which should use a manual tuner, tuned for each band of operation)! The use of these filters will greatly reduce your receiver front-end overload, any unwanted transmitted harmonics, and vastly enhance the performance of your Field Day station. If you don't have one for your band of operation, get one! I.C.E. (Industrial Communications Engineering) makes 'em at a very reasonable price, as do several other manufacturers. (*Plans for building your own are in May '99's QST*). Since we're operating on batteries once again, be sure to have several available, fully charged and watered, rigged for easy transport (handles!). (RV or "deep cycle" batteries are vastly preferred. Gel cells and Garden tractor batteries will not perform as well nor last as long!) Be sure you have operators lined up for round the clock operation—this is a contest and no station should cease operation unless contacts can no

longer be made. Every point counts!

As you arrive at our Field Day site, please ask where to set up your station or tent before doing so and where to park your car. There are areas designated for each, don't assume that just any spot is OK. Don't waste your time setting up or dropping gear, only to find you'll have to move camp later.

Field Day Attendees: Remember these rules for Jim's Farm!

NO GLASS is allowed at the Field Day site! Broken glass anywhere on Jim's (N8MCD) property can CRIPPLE or MAIM his animals. I doubt he'd be very receptive to our using his farm again in the future if that was to happen. If you see someone with glass containers, STOP them and, in no uncertain terms, ask them to leave 'em in their car! Bring your beverages in cans or in kegs (Arpad style!) or plastic.

CHILDREN—if you bring 'em, keep 'em on a short leash! We've had some very near misses with expensive radio gear in the past. USECA's Field Days have always been a family affair, but keep in mind that a field full of towers, steel stakes, trip hazards, and wires is a hardly an ideal playground for your child. Keep 'em out of the barn!... although the animals are cute, they can and do bite.

ANIMALS—Jim's got numerous animals on his farm—Peacocks, Turkeys, Horses, Chickens, and the occasional Whitetail Deer. ALL are strictly off limits and are to be left alone. Very often, several Peacocks will be sitting on eggs during our stay at Jim's farm—do NOT disturb the nesting birds or any of the other animals. Jim's place is NOT a petting farm.

THE BARN, the HOUSE, and PHONE are OFF LIMITS except for those with Jim's explicit permission. Keep in mind this is his home and property, not USECA's. Use the Porta-Johns provided by the club in the field.

VEHICLES—please, NO DRIVING IN THE STATION AREA! Any rain at all can quickly turn the field into a quagmire when mixed with vehicles driving around. Only vehicles dropping off equipment or trailers will be allowed into the field. Once the contest starts (2 pm Saturday), there should be NO TRAFFIC on the field and any cars parked therein should remain parked for the duration. (This year we will also be using a central power distribution network with wiring running across the field in various places, making driving much more hazardous). Keeping traffic out of the station area also greatly enhances the safety of our Field Day for children as well. Parking will be provided in front and to the side of Jim's house. Please be considerate of others and park in such a way as to allow other cars to move if necessary. If you park on Powell Road you risk a ticket.

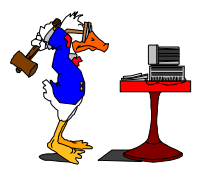
FIRES—NO OPEN FIRES allowed—please be very careful with fuel, lanterns, torches, and candles. We've had a couple of very close calls in this category as well. If the weather is dry, the field we're using can be a tinderbox. KEEP A FIRE EXTINGUISHER HANDY at all times!

BREAKING CAMP—On Sunday, after breaking camp it is your responsibility to police the area of your station—be sure to pick up and dispose of any trash and be absolutely sure that you've removed each and every tent/tower stake from your site. One steel stake left behind can permanently lame Jim's horses.

Members E-Mail Directory

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U
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 KB8YYA, Dreux: kb8yya@arrl.net
 KB8YYB, Debby: cuer@juno.com
 K8ZEC, John: k8zec@tir.com
 ★New/change from previous.



"YOU'VE GOT MAIL!"

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

Y2K 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; plaques for the highest annual HF and VHF scores. Awards are meant to encourage **participation** and can be earned by any licensed amateur.
- ✓3) Net logs must be readable and include the CALLS and NAMES of check-ins, as well as NCO, DATE, and MODE.
- ✓4) NCO's: Forward net logs to the Awards Manager within 30 days; logs received later will not earn the bonus points normally awarded a NCO. MAIL logs to: Jon, KC8HYU, 19351 Todd Drive, Clinton Twp., MI 48038; E-Mail: kc8hyu@home.com.
- ✓5) If *you* notice any errors in the database, wrong or changed call signs, misspelled names, etc., let Jon know ASAP.

USECA Board Meeting Minutes—May 2, 2000

In attendance:

KB8YYB, Debbi President
 *KB8QMS, Nancy Vice-President
 KG8IF, Ann Recording Secretary
 *N8TMJ, Marianne Membership Secretary
 KC8JSH, Delphine Treasurer
 KC8IAQ, Dave Board Member
 W8IR, Mark Board Member
 *N8KLX, Jerry Board Member
 W8DFG, Dennis Past President
 K8CFY, Jerry Historian
 K8OEF, Joe Express Editor
 W8VB, Dave ARRL Liaison
 *Absent



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

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was approved.

Membership report: 235 members.

May Program: will be on fox hunting, field day, part 2 of cross-banding.

Technical committee report: Dave, KC8IAQ: doing just fine. New controller ready to go in.

Express: Joe, K8OEF: no report.

ARRL: Dave, W8VB gave report on Internet and Email access for members.

H&W: Delphine will send cards to members in Marianne's absence.

Pre Field Day: Ann, KG8IF reported on the arrangements.

FD: April general meeting budget FD motion addressed. Dennis, W8DFG made a motion that the \$2600 field day budget be split into 2 budgets: \$2250 for the kitchen, \$350 for the field. The motion was seconded and passed. As there will be no set up until 2 PM Friday - Friday night meal will be sandwiches. Pop will be sold for \$.50 a can. For those people that do not participate in field day, meals can be purchased.

Summer picnic budget was submitted - request for \$200.00. Dave, KC8IAQ made the motion to approve the budget, Ann, KG8IF 2nd, motion approved.

Swap: Dave gave report - is working on the floor plan.

Christmas party: scouting party was organized to go to the Carpathia Club Friday night.

Old Business:

Dennis, W8DFG announced that Blade America will be held on Wednesday, June 14, ruling it out as a club event.

New Business:

Debbie, KB8YYB initiated discussion on insuring our new equipment.

Dennis, W8DFG made a motion that we give John K8ZEC the job of doing an inventory on what equipment is insured and what else needs to be. Dave 2nd. Motion passed.

Dennis, W8DFG discussed the June Fox-Hunt. Mark, W8IR will be the fox. Discussion ensued regarding the dinner afterward. Dennis made a motion to recommend to the membership that amount spent for this event does not exceed \$500. Mark, W8IR 2nd the motion, motion passed.

Finance and audit 1999: Laura will head a committee of three.

SATERN - Dave, KC8IAQ requested permission to change the Thursday night nets to Monday night either at 7 or 8 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Manor, KG8IF, Recording Secretary

USECA General Meeting Minutes—May 9, 2000

KB8YYB, Debbi President
 KB8QMS, Nancy Vice-President
 KG8IF, Ann Recording Secretary
 *N8TMJ, Marianne Membership Secretary
 KC8JSH, Delphine Treasurer
 KC8IAQ, Dave Board Member
 *W8IR, Mark Board Member
 N8KLX, Jerry Board Member
 W8DFG, Dennis Past President
 *Absent

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

New members, visitors and upgrades were recognized.

Minutes: 2 call sign corrections: Kim is K8HRP, Debbi is KB8YYB. The minutes were accepted.

The treasurer's report was presented and accepted.

Membership: currently at 236.

Repeater: John, K8ZEC will hold tech meeting Tuesday 5/16/00.

Express: Joe - articles due as usual by the break following tonight's meeting.

ARRL: Dave, W8VB stated ARRL newsletter can be forwarded via email, contact him.

Hosts: thanks to Ray, KC8NDO and Jerry, KB8TAS.

Thanks to Don, KC8CPT, the great coffee man.

Old Business:

Dennis, W8DFG gave report on WalkAmerica. 1600 walkers participated. Jerry, N8KLX provided a report on the special event station. 200 contacts were made.

Ray, KC8NDO promoted preFD, coming up Saturday, May 13 at Stony Creek Metro Park. Flyers are available.

Walt, WB8E displayed this year's FD shirt, artwork by Ken N8KC. Walt is taking orders.

Annual summer picnic: Nancy, KB8QMS reminded the membership it would be held August 27, New Baltimore Park. Picnic supplies, hamburgers, hot dogs, and a few surprises will be provided. Please bring a pass-a-dish.

Swap: Dave KC8IAQ - looking for kitchen help and presenters of forums.

Camping - Dina, N8YJI give report on the upcoming season. Lakeport for Memorial Day is sold out for campsites, but people are welcome to come for the day.

New Business:

George, K8GEO reported on the MS 150 bike tour, to be held Sat-Sun July 15,16; will go to Lansing. Looking for volunteers to work any part or all of it. Also looking for volunteers to monitor siren tests in the Rochester Hills area, 1st Sat of the month 1 PM.

SATERN net will now be on Monday evenings. No net points awarded.

FD meeting to be held at 2 PM at the preFD picnic.

Jim W1IK - now in last cycle of CW training on Monday nights. Has cassettes available free of charge for anyone wanting to study code.

Joe, K8OEF will try an experiment and will take the net on the 2nd Tues of July and August. SWL's and people out of town can use Joe's Email address or ICQ to check in.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Program: Phil, W8IC and Floyd, W8RO gave a demonstration on fox hunting techniques. Jerry, N8KLX reported on FD planning and Dennis, W8DFG discussed the kitchen planning.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Manor, KG8IF, Recording Secretary

USECA Cork Board

▶ Radio "Stuff" ◀

ALINCO DJ-C4T UHF H.T. with manual and battery charger. Mint condition. \$50.00. Richard, K8QLM, (810) 731-4475.

BEAM, 15M 3 ele, used for FD twice, otherwise stored inside, w/balun and manual, \$150. WY8M 810-751-3804 or wy8m@home.com

SALE. 2-Meter Stick antenna w/approx. 12' co-ax. \$20. (810)-786-5442 KC8BIU, Ted.

TEN-TEC; complete station. Omni-C transceiver; model 255 power supply/speaker; model 229 antenna tuner (re-strung by T.T. Spring '99); model 243 remove VFO; model 444 linear amplifier. All units are mint condition, with manuals. Package deal only. \$1,400. OBO. Richard, K8QLM, (810) 731-4475.

★WANTED: Alinco 2 meter credit card HT for high altitude balloon project; ontact Phil W8IC at (810) 751-3893, or w8ic@arrl.net.

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

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

▶ Miscellaneous Items ◀

ATARI LYNX hand held video game with 6 cartridges and carrying case. Like new condition. \$20.00. Dan, WA8GQL

COLEMAN 1993 Seneca Camping Trailer. Queen and double bed provide comfortable sleeping for four adults or 2 adults and 3 kids. Dual dinettes provides sleeping for 3 more kids. Three burner stove and sink inside. Separate high output 2 burner stove for outside. Lots of storage, including a place for the porta potti (saves the late night trips to the facility). Canopy for shade on those sunny or rainy days. Tows great. Dry weight approx. 1400#, so can be towed by about any vehicle. We towed it thru the mountains of California, as much as 18% grades, with a Saab 900, 2.3L in 1998. Excellent condition. \$3800. Those of you who have been at the USECA campouts the last two years have seen it. Contact Jim Mickle, N8OKW, (810) 677-1667, Jim Mickle@juno.com.

EPSON Apex Action Printer L1000, 24 pin dot matrix printer. Excellent condition and works beautifully. Comes with tractor feed, as well as plain paper feed; owners manual and software. First \$20 takes it. Call Floyd at (248) 391-6660 or e-mail: hires@rust.net.

FISHER studio standard bookshelf stereo system. Like new condition, plastic cover. PLL digital fm/am stereo tuner, Two deck cassette tape player/copier, record changer on top, graphic equalizer, CD player. Very little to no use. Model MC-750. \$85.00. Dan, WA8GQL.

GMC '92 Typhoon. Turbocharged, inter-cooled V6 w/AWD, ABS, CD and alarm. Very fast, looks great, runs great and always garaged. 92K miles. \$16K obo. Floyd, W8RO; (248) 391-6660 or floyd@hirescom.com.

OLDSMOBILE '97 Aurora, silver, 42K miles, loaded, excellent condx. Contact Floyd, W8RO, at (248) 391-6660 or floyd@hirescom.com.

There will be an unusual happening on the 2nd Tuesday of July and August. I have volunteered to take the Information Net since there are no general meetings during those months. During the net I will take e-mail check-ins from hams (out-of-towners listening via our web's streaming audio). Immediately following the net, I'll take check-ins from SWL's (3rd party). I haven't the slightest idea how this will work, but will never know unless it gets tried. In July, I'll take e-mail and ICQ check-ins (maybe audio in August). My ICQ number is 24629658.

Let's see what happens.

Joe—K8OEF

The *USECA EXPRESS* is published monthly (except July and August), by the UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC., of Macomb County, Michigan. Club meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August), 7:30 p.m., local time, at the Donald Bemis Junior High School, 12500 Nineteen Mile Road (between Schoenherr and Clinton River Road), Sterling Heights, Michigan *Visitors are always welcome.* Articles for the *EXPRESS* should be submitted to the editor no later than the night of the club meeting for publication in the following month's edition. The articles within are those of the author and not necessarily endorsed by USECA. Material contained in the *EXPRESS* may be reprinted provided credit is given to the *USECA EXPRESS* and the author, except material published by permission of a copyright holder. To get a message to the Board or the Membership Secretary, please call our answering machine at: (810) 268-6730. The awards for "Excellent" (1994) and four times "Superior" (1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998) were received from ARNS (Amateur Radio News Service).

FOR SALE

Battery isolator for vehicle. New in box. Unknown size. No paperwork. \$40.

27" Admiral TV, 3yrs. Old; \$200.

Portable B&W TV 5"; \$10.

Uniden BC60XLT hand held VHF/UHF 30ch scanner; \$60.

Realistic home CD player, works; \$20.

Wilson ProStaff ladies graphite golf club set, w/bag & more, like new; \$200.

440 Ringo Ranger II; \$20.

CB antenna 4' fiberglass; NEW; \$5.

Sony CDP591 CD player; \$25.

Xerox 6010 Memorywriter electric typewriter; \$25.

386 Computer; \$100.

Contact Arpad WY8M; 810-751-3804 or wy8m@home.com

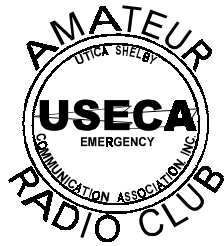
Have you changed your call sign recently? If you have, please notify Marianne, N8TMJ our club membership secretary. If you don't tell her, who will?

NAME BADGES

With The OFFICIAL USECA Logo

Contact Debbi, KB8YYB: (810) 263-0227

USECA APPLICATION



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

Rev. 12/98

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

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

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

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



2-Meter LANs

Local Area Nets

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

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

WWW.USECA.ORG

Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM	MON. 9 PM**	TUES. 8 PM	FRI. MIDNIGHT
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
1	KG8IF	N8OEF	K8QLM	KC8IAQ
2	W8IR	W1IK	-Mtg-***	KC8MWW
3	K8QLM	N8OEF	KC8IAP	KC8DIR
4	AB8BT	W1IK	W8IR	KC8HYU
5*	WB8E	N8OEF	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

*Slow Code — ***July and August Only; K8OEF

HF NETS

	THURS. 9 PM	FRI. 10 PM	FRI. 11 PM
WEEK	21.140 MHz/CW	21.140 MHz/CW	28.425 MHz/USB
1	K8QLM	-OPEN-	KC8LOC
2	N8MOJ	W8RO	KA2IBE
3	W8RO	W8IC	K8QLM
4	AA8DD	WB8E	-OPEN-
5*	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

*If applicable

NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement
 or contact Brian, KC8DIR (810) 749-4561—Don't wait!

USECA Hot Line: (810) 268-6730

USECA

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 1222 • Sterling Heights, MI 48311-1222

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WARREN, MI
PERMIT NO. 289



JUNE 2000

USECA . . . Your Final Answer!

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
JUN	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting—Fox Hunt
JUN	23-25		Campout—p/o Field Day
JUN	24-25		Field Day 2000
JUL	21-23		*Campout—Xmas in July—Algonac
AUG	11-15		*Campout—St. Ignace & Tawas
AUG	15-20		*Campout—Tawas Point; E. Tawas
AUG	27		Annual Club Picnic
SEP	4		Michigan Peach Festival Parade
SEP	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting
SEP	22-24		Campout—Western—Algonac
OCT	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting
OCT	22		USECA Swap
OCT	27-29		Campout—Halloween—Algonac
NOV	14	7:30 pm	General Meeting—Nominations
DEC	TBA	6:30 pm	13th Annual Christmas Party
DEC	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting—Elections

* Group Number 623476; Call 1-800-44-PARKS

Swaps

Day	Month	Date	Where
SUN	JUN	18	MONROE
SUN	OCT	22	USECA
SAT,SUN	NOV	18-19	Fort Wayne
SUN	DEC	3	L'Anse Creuse

Source: N8ARO

6-METER NETS

	WED 7 PM	WED 8 PM
WEEK	50.150 MHz/USB	51.740 MHz/FM
1	-OPEN-	-OPEN-
2	KC8IAQ	K8QLM
3	N8YBY	KC8HYU
4	W8VB	W8VB
5*		-OPEN-

*If applicable

NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement or contact Brian, KC8DIR (810) 749-4561—Don't wait!