



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 22, Number 6, June 2006

Silent Key — Paul, W8KC

VALKO, PAUL RAYMOND; age 48; of Oakland; April 22, 2006. Loving husband of Debra; dear father of Katie and Colleen; beloved son of Frank and Patricia; brother of Bryan (Laurie), Keith (Donna) Valko, and Lisa (Mike) Hackert; godfather of Theresa, Angie, Alex, Matthew, Erik and Derek; also survived by many nieces and nephews. Paul was an employee of EDS for over 20 years. Paul was an amateur radio operator (W8KC), a member of the Auburn Hills Optimist Club, taught religious ed at St. Joseph Catholic Church and enjoyed working with the girl's track team at Lake Orion High School. He loved all things electronic. Special times were spent with family and friends at his cottage, "The Little House." He will be most remembered for his love of family, friends and fun.

—Submitted by Dick, AF8X

USECA FIELD DAY - JUNE 2006

What's the biggest weekend of the year for amateur radio? It's June 23, 24 and 25. That's a Friday, Saturday and Sunday in wonderful warm and sunny June. So, what's the big deal? Well, the agenda includes camping, station setup, radio operating, contesting, practicing for emergency communications, as well as socializing with new and old Ham acquaintances for an entire weekend. It's like dying and going to heaven for many radio amateurs.

But wait! That's not all! On Friday night, after most of the stations have set up, our all ham operator band, "QRM" will entertain you with some of your favorite music from the sixties and seventies. You can sit on your lawn chairs under a starry sky (hopefully) and enjoy the music and with the company of friends.

The main event is a 24-hour radio contest, from 2 pm Saturday until 2 pm Sunday.

Food is provided for all the workers throughout the weekend. Guests are able to purchase meals at a very nominal fee, which helps defray the cost to our club. The food is great, due to experienced and superb kitchen team of W8DFG, KC8DIR and their assembled crew.

How can you get in on this fantastic event? For starters, plan on setting these three days aside. Then, find something to sleep in. A tent, camper, motor home, back seat of a car, it doesn't matter. If you can, plan on staying from 1 PM Friday to 4 PM Sunday.

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Field Day Commandments

Ken, N8KC

I. Thou shalt "talk up" USECA's Field Day (and other activities) wherever you are, invite friends, and in general, promote USECA and Amateur Radio to those you know and thereby expand our club and the ranks of hamdom. (Remember...this event is our biggest opportunity to reach and recruit new members!)

II. Thou shalt not begin any set-up before 2pm Friday. Set-up begins at 2pm Friday for anyone wishing to prepare early. Stick around afterwards for our annual FD Evening Concert series (music by QRM, USECA's all-ham rock & roll band), snacks, and fun until the wee hours.

III. Thou shalt not bringeth glass unto the Field Day site regardless of what it "containeth." (Bring libations in cans or cartons...or better yet, Kegs. I have heard it said by a member of the board that some "mighty fine" wines come in boxes.)

IV. Thou shalt light no campfires in the field. Lanterns are permitted, but use great care with any open flame. Tents burn quickly and the field can be very dry.

V. Thou shalt not disturb the farm animals in any way (Nor shall thy offspring). They're making Field Day contacts too...bitten fingers = 2 pts.; pecked faces = 3 pts.; & stepped-on toes = 5 pts.

VI. Thou shalt not enter the home or barn upon the Field Day premises unless accompanied and/or invited by Jim or his wife, Kathy.

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Next Meeting — June 13

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison	Bobby/N8CY (248) 879-7214
Awards Manager	Chris/KV8Z
Door Prizes	—OPEN—
Editor	Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
Field Day Chair	Phil/W8IC & Ann/KT8F (586) 751-3893
Health & Welfare	Walt/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Liaison	Dave/KC8TTO
Mails/Sorters	Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
Net Manager	Brian/KC8DIR (586) 749-4561
Photographer	—OPEN—
Program Director	Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609
Public Relations Officer	Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
Refreshments	Walt/WB8E; Richard/KC8HMJ
Repeater Trustee	Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Swap Director	Tom/KD8AVF (586) 651-7239; kd8avf@k8uo.com
Technical Director	Floyd/W8RO (248) 391-6660
Technicians	W1NB; W8IC; K8FT; WA8GQL; KC8IAQ; W1IK; AD8S; N8SA
VE Testing	Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Webmaster	Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

Scott/W1NB	Jim/W1IK*	Floyd/W8RO*
Dennis/W8DFG*	Joe/K8OEF*	Fred/W1SKU
Phil/W8IC*	Joe/N8OZ*	Chuck/N8ZA*

PROGRAMMERS

Dennis/W8DFG

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

This is the best news to report—the entire editorial staff is going on its two-month vacation. Can't get any better than that. *See you in September!*

73 for now.

Hello Ralph,

I also often operate portable with my KX1, often from Phoenix. Although I have had SOME LIMITED success operating from motels, homes, etc with various antennas, I want to give you another idea which WILL work and be lots of fun. I usually just borrow a lawn chair and possibly a scrap of wood for an operating table, then hike to the nearest park with my radio and 25 ft piece of wire and 17 ft radial. I throw the wire up in a tree and lay out one or 2 radials, then the fun begins. Rx noise is much lower than in a subdivision or motel and I have a much better signal than I would have from a building. In Phoenix there is usually a city park or some open space within a few blocks. On my last trip to Phoenix I did not even bother to set up my rig at my daughters house, but just walked to the park to operate. Many wonderful contacts on 20, 30, and 40 meters with this very simple set up. In fact I had so much fun operating all afternoon in 75 degree temperatures I just stayed on the air into the evening and practically froze as the temperature dropped into the 40's since I just had short sleeves and shorts! This kind of simple set up from the wide open spaces all over the US and Europe has netted me many QSO's with my KX1 typically out to 1000 or 1500 miles, and very occasionally even some DX.

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Field Day—From Page 1

It is a good idea to wear a name badge to this gala event. A badge will make it easier to match up a face with names and call-signs. It makes no difference what license you have. You don't even need to have a ham license yet Your interest in HAM radio makes Field Day the place to be! This is the place to see it all, do it all, and be able to talk about ham radio with new and seasoned operators in actual field operations.

Here is the scenario: on Friday—at 1 PM, gather at Jim and Kathy's farm. Location: Powell Road, just north of 30 Mile Road. From Warren, take the Van Dyke freeway north to 30 Mile, turn right, go about 1/2 mile, turn left on Powell, then turn right into the first driveway.

The kitchen will be set up just outside the field day operating area. If a good size group of people show up to help erect the tent, the set up will be fast and easy. It's

not all work, there is always a lot of laughs and camaraderie.

The actual radio station set up should start at 2 PM Friday. This is when the antennas, tents, generators and, oh yes, the porta-potties will enter the field. In years past, five or more towers were set up. The more towers at field day, the more fun the operators can have. We are allowed a 1000 foot diameter area in which we can set up as many stations as possible. Of course, the spacing of the stations is critical, so we try to work this out well in advance of the event.

At about 5 or 6 PM on Friday night, dinner is served. Around 8 PM, the QRM band will begin entertaining you. It is suggested that you bring lawn chairs. Also, our ace kitchen crew has been known to put out an incredible snack later in the evening, keeping the event even more festive.

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Michigan QSO Party 2006

Keith, N8EB

ON SATURDAY, April 15th we had a wonderful sunny day in the low 70's that made for a perfect day to head out to Metro Beach and play radio. Being the same day as the Michigan QSO Party and having 4 stations out and running all day, plus around 20 visitors made it a dream day.

Even though I made it perfectly clear that I didn't want to be "the guy" for the MiQSO Party, I have all the logs from the day in front of me, but I haven't started to go through them yet. It appears we made about 175 contacts overall, but that is not what matters for this event. What matters is that many people came out, and everyone had a great time!

Walt, WB8E and Bob, N8ZY ran 20-meter CW with some good success, and was also helped by Ray, KD8CXY. Don, WB8F and Larry, WB8SJD wrestled with 40-meter CW - there was a decent amount of noise to deal with. Paul, AA8OZ, set up 15-meter CW with a neat "an-

tenna on a kite" set up that made everyone come over to see his set up!

Chuck, N8ZA, and I set up 20-meter phone using both a "Slinky dipole" on a painter's pole and a regular 20-meter dipole tied up in a tree. We "volunteered" many visitors that walked by to sit down at the operator's position to talk or log for us so we could stand up and stretch our legs. Some of the people that helped us were Tom, KD8AVF; Bill, N8SA (who had a VERY unique method of encouraging contacts!) and Jim, W1IK.

Leo, KW8J not only helped us on 20-meter phone, but he also brought out his Bar-B-Q and cooked some great sausage for everyone! Kim, KD8CNU not only took a turn in the operator's seat, she also brought out some fantastic gourmet bagels & cream cheese!

Ed, KD8CXJ was out there helping all day, and he also showed us the Directional Quad Antenna

that he and son Tom, KD8AVF, made along with a great solar panel - I think I smell Field Day equipment here.

Ken, KC8ZVA rode in on his Harley, and I saw Mike, N5WCS there - but did he ride in also? Dave, W18C, was there causing trouble as usual, but George, K8GEO and Gene, KC8ZDN, were there to keep him in line! Also there visiting was Steve, KC8ZNN, and I saw a few others come by throughout the afternoon, but I didn't get them to sign in, so I don't know who they were!

All in all it was a great day...played radio out in the fresh air, a wonderful sunny day, and best of all, as Walt puts it, "radio fellowship." If you want to experience this kind of fun remember that we have the March of Dimes walk, Pre-Field Day, and Field Day all coming up very soon. Get out there and be "Radio-Active"!

Telegrapher's Side Job

IF YOU WERE in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that; but if you wanted one that was cheaper and better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station! Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found.

At the train station—but not for the reason you might think. The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was. And most of the time, the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-ways had already been secured for the rail line. Also, most

of the station agents were skilled telegraph operators, and that was the primary way that they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches.

As a matter of fact, they sold more of them than almost all of the stores combined for a period of about 9 years. And mostly, this was arranged by Richard, who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota, train station one day, when a load of watches arrived from the east.

A huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them. So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the

watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. Richard did that.

He sent a wire to every agent in the system, asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit. That started it.

He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station and start offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. That worked!

It didn't take long for the word to spread to all kinds of people; and before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches.

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USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—May 2, 2006

In attendance:

N8ZA, Chuck	President
N8VI, Brad	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KW8Z, Ken	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
WB8E, Walt	Board Member
W8IC, Phil	Board Member
N8OZ, Joe	Board Member
W11K, Jim	Past President

*Absent



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

Motion to accept the minutes of the last BOD meeting made by Walt, WB8E, and 2nd by Dennis, W8DFG, motion carried.

No Treasurer's report. Verbal report given by Dennis. Motion to accept made by Jim, W11K, seconded by Brad, N8VI, motion carried.

Membership: 176 members, per Dennis, W8DFG.

Webmaster: Brad, N8VI: working on streaming audio.

Technical: Report given by Scott, W1NB (new call sign). Controller is now back in service. The DVR is now ready for use. Filters ordered.

Reported on the status of the repeater and receive sites. Also reported on the Ebay auction and our equipment for sale. Scott indicated he was interested in purchasing the old controller. Walt, WB8E made a motion that we give Scott the controller, 2nd by Phil, W8IC, motion carried.

Health and Welfare: Walt, WB8E reported on ill members, and cards that have been sent out

Trustee: Dennis, W8DFG reported.

Field Day: Phil, W8IC reported on current status 10 stations currently are filled. Jerry, N8KLX has the logging program ready and will make it available on the website.

Old Business

Dennis, W8DFG reported on last week's Walk America. Thinks there were more walkers this year than last. Will update the information as it comes up.

New Business

Dennis, W8DFG made a motion that we bring to the general membership the request for the funds (\$2000.00) for field day expenses. Seconded by Jim, W11K, motion carried.

Walt, WB8E made a motion that we purchase club QSL cards.

Seconded by Dennis, W8DFG. Discussion of options. Motion carried. A committee should be formed. Will be brought before the membership.

Dennis, W8DFG suggested that we have the swap tickets printed now, so they can be available for sale.

Dennis, W8DFG made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 8:33 PM, seconded by Walt, WB8E, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary.



General Meeting—May 9, 2006

In attendance:

N8ZA, Chuck	President
N8VI, Brad	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KW8Z, Ken	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
WB8E, Walt	Board Member
W8IC, Phil	Board Member
N8OZ, Joe	Board Member
W11K, Jim	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 Jim, N8DMW and 2nd by Scott, W1NB, motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Dennis, W8DFG. Motion to approve made by George, K8GEO and supported by Bob, KZ8N, motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z: 174 members.

Website: Brad, N8VI - coming soon: real-time audio streaming of the repeater.

Membership polled regarding the community board.

Express: Joe, K8OEF absent. Articles are due tonight, submit to Joe via email if need be.

Technical report: Scott, W1NB has the filters. The repeater is now capable of running in full net mode and the DVR is up and running.

ARRL: Bobby, N8CY provided report on recent events. Stop by the ARRL booth if you are going to Dayton.

Trustee: Dennis, W8DFG - ignore malicious interference, but try to pick the offender up on the input. Email your findings to cops@k8uo.com.

Field Day: Phil, W8IC will be providing information on FD for tonight's program.

Swap: Tom, KD8AVF - needs volunteers, contact Tom.

Health and Welfare: Walt, WB8E informed the members that Richard, W8WTH is back in the hospital. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Cards are being circulated for various members.

Phil, W8IC talked about Pre FD, coming up this weekend.

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NEED SOME HELP WITH THAT?



Donate your old gear!

Turn your old, excess Ham gear and related items into a tax break for you and a learning tool for kids.

Donate your radio or related gear to an IRS approved 501 (c)(3) charity. Get a tax credit and help a worthy cause!

EQUIPMENT PICKED UP ANYWHERE OR SHIPPING ARRANGED

Call (516) 674-4072
 Fax (516) 674-9600
 E-mail crew@wb2jkj.org
 Web site: <http://www.wb2jkj.org>



THE RADIO CLUB OF
 JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL 22
 P.O. BOX 1052
 New York, NY 1002

Net Points

Here are my top 10 for HF and VHF

HF

- WY8M - Arpad 100
- KV8Z - Chris 94
- W11K - Jim 47
- N8ZY - Bob 16
- N8ZA - Chuck 11
- KA2IBE - John 9
- W1NB - Scott 8
- N8UO - Ken 6
- KC8LOC - Tom 5
- W8IC - Phil 4
- AB8BT - Andy 4

VHF

- W11K - Jim 63
- N8YBY - Leonard 44
- KV8Z - Chris 42
- WB8E - Walt 42
- N8EB - Keith 34
- KD8AVF - Tom 33
- W8DFG - Dennis 30
- N8OZ - Joe 30
- KW8Z - Ken 29
- N8ZA - Chuck 29

73 es gl,
 Chris, KV8Z
 SKCC #421

Hello Ralph—From Page 2

When you do operate portable experiment with your ground. Sometimes all I do is clip onto a metal picnic table, guard rail, metal roof, or whatever is around. Often this is all I need and a radial does not help. In other situations clipping onto a building ground or other object just SUCKS THE SIGNALS AWAY...like an electronic BLACK HOLE! Then a radial should be installed. I usually try both systems on receive first. (adding a radial will probably never degrade your signal). IF you can erect a dipole or other antenna at a good height above most surrounding structures then it probably will outperform my "park" antenna. Often folks see me in a park and ask about ham radio and what I am doing. Usually I am in a cw qso, so talking to them while on the air is difficult. Before my next trip I am going to print up some small handouts which explain ham radio, qrp, cw etc.

Have fun in Phoenix with your KX1. You should be able to get into the Elecraft net to both Kevin and Tom on 20 for sure and possibly also on 40 with a "park set up."

Rick, KL7CW

May 9, 2006 Foxhunt results:

Foxes: Ann, KT8F, Phil, W8IC

6:39 PM: Ken, KW8Z, Larry, W8SOX, Chuck, N8ZA

6:44 PM: Brad, N8VI

6:52 PM: Keith, N8EB and Leo, KW8J

7:03 PM: Ed, KD8CXJ and Tom, KD8AVF

Congrats to Kim, KD8CNU who upgraded to General on May 12. (In record time!)

USECA Club Liaison

MONTH	DATE	EVENT
JUN	3	Annual Hamfestival The Independent Repeater Association Hudsonville, MI Hudsonville Fairgrounds Grant Street http://www.w8hvg.org Talk-In: 147.16 (PL 94.8) Contact: Ray Abraczinskas, W8HVG. Phone: 616-455-3915 Email: abra@i2k.com
JUN	4	Chelsea ARC. Chelsea, MI Chelsea Fairgrounds Old Manchester Road (US Route 12) http://www.wd8iel.org Talk-In: 145.45- (PL 100). Contact: Frank Pohs, KD8ABW Phone: 734-945-1915. Email: swapchair@wd8iel.org
JUN	17	MARC 32nd Annual Hamfest Midland ARC. Midland, MI Gerstacker Fair Center Midland County Fairgrounds http://www.qsl.net/w8kea Talk-In: 147.000 (PL 103.5). Contact: Bill Albe, N8FUZ Phone: 989-835-4142. Email: n8fuz@arrl.net
JUN	18	Monroe County Radio Communications Association Monroe, MI Monroe County Fairgrounds 3775 South Custer Road http://www.mcrcra.org/hamfest.htm Talk-In: 146.72/12 Contact: Fred VanDaele, KA8EBI Phone: 734-242-9487 Email: ka8ebi@arrl.net
JUN	24	TOMARC - Field Day & Tailgate Swap Davis Tree Farm & Top of Michigan ARC Elmira (Gaylord), MI Davis Tree Farm - Field Day Site 8378 Van Tyle Road 10 miles west of Gaylord Talk-In: 146.820 (PL 118.8) & 146.52 Simplex Contact: James E. Davis, KC8NTE Email: KC8NTE@arrl.net
JUL	8	Swap and Shop Straits Area Amateur Radio Club Petoskey, MI Petoskey High School 1500 Hill Street http://www.qsl.net/kg8jk Talk-In: 146.68 (PL 110.9) Contact: Cliff Rosebohm, KC8NVI Phone: 231-539-8459 Email: kc8nvi@glccomputers.com
JUL	15-16	2006 MS 150 BIKE TOUR Our goals are to provide comprehensive, state-of-the-art amateur radio communications to support the MS Society, and at the same time to encourage as many amateurs as possible to participate in what has become the largest Public Service Event in Southeastern Michigan. For more info contact Fred - W8FSM at (810)-443-6767 (office) or (248)-240-2705 (cell) Plus lots more info at http://ms150.moses.bz/ you could also sign up for the event at the same webpage.
AUG	5	UP Hamfest 2006. Delta County ARS Escanaba, MI Bay De Noc Community College. 2001 North Lincoln Road; http://www.dcars.org . Talk-In: 147.15. Contact: Richard Thompson, N8OYR. Phone: 906-428-2528. Email: n8oyr@dcars.org
AUG	12	Cascades Amateur Radio Society Jackson, MI Jackson Catholic Middle School 915 Cooper Street http://www.w8jxn.org Talk-In: 146.880 (PL 100) Contact: Linda Stanley, KA8ZHV Phone: 517-522-8630. Email: linda.stanley@acd.net
		<i>Submitted by David, KC8TTQ</i>

Telegraphers—From Page 3

Richard got so busy he had to hire a professional watchmaker to help him with the orders. He did, and that person was Alvah. And the rest is history, as they say. The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods. Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago. And it's still there. IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator, Richard Sears, and his partner: Alvah Robuck!

—Submitted by Dick, AF8X

From Dick, AF8X . . .

It has been said, " A smart man learns from his mistakes, a wise man learns from other's mistakes."

Field Day Commandments—*From Page 1*

VII. Thou shalt keep watchful eyes upon thy offspring and keep them close at your side always, for they are thine and thine alone. Tripping hazards, wires, tent stakes, and large animals (some with HTs and expensive radio equipment) will be present. Ye will be held responsible for damages caused by offspring running amok.

VIII. Thou shalt bringeth a dish to pass (or sufficient coin of the realm) if thee expecteth to eat at Field Day. (Thou shouldst confer with W8Da'-Food-God if thy wish is to dwell within and assist in the temple of culinary delights.)

IX. Thou shalt plan ahead and have thy station prepared, set up, and ready for operation when the contest beginneth at 2pm Saturday. (batteries, rig, antenna, shelter, etc) Ye shouldst strive to get the most out of thy QRP 5 watts and plan to use a gain antenna, at a decent height, *if at all possible*. A low dipole or vertical will yield poor results.

X. Thou shalt use a bandpass filter on thy RF output, designed for the band you intend to operate. The club owns numerous ICE filters,

which you may borrow. Be sure to have one, grounded, in your transmission line, for the duration of the contest. The GOTA station *also* should change filters upon change of band to avoid QRMing other stations.

XI. Thou shalt transmit *only* on the frequencies allotted to the *highest class* licensee physically present at thy station (who should be designated control op). Use of the club's call (K8UO) does not automatically grant unto everyone Extra class privileges. (see FCC Commandments 97.105 & 97.115) If you lack an Extra and wish to work higher-class bands, ask one to sit in on your operation, *otherwise operate within your station control op's privileges*. (Remember... those stations in the higher class bands need to work you too and will move into the General bands once they run out of stations to work there.) Unlicensed individuals may participate as long as a control op is physically present and monitoring the station for operation as described above.

XII. Thou shalt operate thy station for the *entire* 24 hour period of the contest or until further new contacts are unlikely. (Thunderbolts from the heavens are a strong sign from God to take a break)

XIII. Thou shalt not drive thy car within the station area (the field) once the contest begins, unless absolutely necessary. Cars parked in the field at the start of the contest are expected to remain there for the duration. Ample parking is available in the front & side yard of the house.

XIV. Thou shalt leave only a depression in the grass to mark thy attendance at Field Day when ye depart. Ye shalt leave no tent or tower stakes behind as they can lame Jim's animals. All trash shall be put in the dumpster provided. Thou wilt be *blessed* amongst USECAns if ye help with "tear-down" and packing of the mess tents and club equipment.

XV. Thou shalt not moan, whine, nor wail publicly afterwards that "*no-one gave me a chance to operate.*" if ye did not offer to help in station supply, set-up, tear-down, or logging beforehand. The God of radio rewards those who do more than just show up and ask for the operator's chair.

Don't miss the boat! USECA Field Day 2006...Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, June 23-25.

Long Distance Help—Ham Style!

A WEEK AGO today (May 2nd) I had a rather unique and somewhat funny set of circumstances come together to assist me. Let me explain now that I have you all wondering if I have lost the last of my cookies. I probably have, but that is another story! As most of you know, I drive a lot for my job in my personal van (a 2000 Astro POS) in case it matters to you motor heads out there—you know who you are! OK, I digress. Anyway I was on my usual path of going to a different place every day, etc. I was supposed to go to a station on 10 Mile Rd. west of Groesbeck under the right-of-way towers, what we call Stephens Station and pick up some parts for a job at St. Clair

Power Plant. The boss had dropped them off on his way home last night for us, saving me a drive downtown to the main nut house. I was most grateful for that. I had not been to this station since we sold it to ITC. We still retained keys as we shared some equipment in the gate.

I drove in the wrong driveway and found myself on a dead end one track with newly seeded (read soft mud with seed) ditches on both sides. I figured that since I am the professional driver I am, I could just pull a J-turn on the narrow drive and pull out back onto 10 Mile Road forward since backing onto that road is not something I wished to do. Silly me, as I backed around, cutting the wheel sharply,

stopped and went to pull forward, my van had other ideas, having gotten it's wheels quite greased with fresh mud from the landscapers, it slid like a skater right off the road into the mire. I felt the movement and tried to go forward, but of course it would not do as I, the commander of this vehicle willed it to. Will and physics had a very brief battle and physics won out, leaving my rear tires in mud to the axles. It had rained all the previous day and night so the mud was quite soft I can tell you. I knew I was there to stay until I got help. I was talking on the radio as I usually am on drive time and relayed my misery to the party I was talking to at the time.

—Continued on Page 8

Long Distance Help—From Page 7

Laughing of course ensued, and I grinned at how stupid I had been and took the jabs. Then an angel broke in on the repeater. Brian, KC8KJL broke in and told me he would call his dad (Rich, KC8HMJ) at work at TACOM (about two miles away) to assist me. I asked him to have his dad call me on my cell phone and waited. Meanwhile, an ITC truck came over to investigate who was screwing up their nice new landscaping. It was an old friend of mine who had retired from our group last year and went to work for ITC. He said he thought he could get me a chain and possibly pull me out. I went with him to get the chain, taking my cell phone in case Rich called back.

Now, while all of this was taking place locally, things were going a

bit further than I had anticipated on the other end with Rich. It seems Rich was working in Utah, which his son had forgotten about. Rich, though was not to be stopped. He immediately called John, NS8E at TACOM and relayed my woes. By the time Bill (friend from ITC) and I had rounded up a chain, John and Dave, AD8S were waiting for me by my van. I had relayed my position to John on the Nextel. They had gotten early directions on the repeater I believe though I did not hear that part, being away from the van without an HT.

So, to make a very long and very boring story longer and even MORE boring, John pulled me out with the help of his four wheel truck, tow strap and the chain we had rounded up from ITC's garage, and it all happened involving the repeater, cell phones, and communi-

cations between people in two states, three directly, and lots more indirectly. This all added up to getting a MORON a tow out of the mud. I hate to think what the bill would have been for that kind of service. As it is I owe lunches to a few.

I am that MORON but I am a thankful one for my ham radio friends. I wish to thank Rich, KC8HMJ; Rich's son, Brian, KC8KJL; John, NS8E; Dave, AD8S; Bill MacKinnon of ITC, and anyone else involved in this 'emergency'. BTW, in case you did not already figure this out, UTAH is two hours earlier than us. This was a very early call to Rich. I am glad he is an early bird.

Sheepishly grateful,
Bill Chesney, N8SA

Field Day—From Page 2

After a good nights sleep, the remaining stations will be set up, (after breakfast of course). Remember, many of the station setups need help. Everyone that attends Field Day is encouraged to lend a hand to as many stations as possible.

After lunch, at 1 PM, a station chairman meeting will take place. At this time, the final count of stations will be determined. USECA can claim the number of stations that are in simultaneous operation, with a couple exceptions. At 2 PM, the contest portion of Field Day begins.

The object is to contact as many other stations as possible in a 24 hour period. USECA has used QRP (low power) for most of the last ten years for three reasons. First, QRP is less likely to cause interference to neighboring stations. Second, the club gets a times five multiplier, instead of a times two multiplier. Third, it is possible to operate all weekend on one, or if needed, two good size batteries. Maximum power will be five watts of trans-

mitter output. This is why a good antenna is especially important.

A tower with a beam is the way to go on 10,15,20, as well as all VHF and UHF bands. If you can, beg, borrow, or steal one for the weekend, DO IT! Even if the tower is not very tall, it will allow you to null out noise or interference and also allow some gain in the direction of best propagation. On the lower bands, it's a good idea to have two antennas—one for the near-in stations (NVIS antennas), and another for the more distant stations.

Each station will be manned by at least one licensed Ham. The station must operate within the restrictions of the control operator in the station. If you are an Extra Class operator, please make yourself available as a control operator if you find a station that would be limited by a Tech, General or Advanced License.

The Saturday dinner is the main meal of the weekend. The kitchen crew prepares a special entree, and everyone chips in with a pass-a-dish. The club will have a refrigerated truck to keep your pass-a-dish

fresh for the feast. You can contact Dennis, W8DFG, or Brian, KC8DIR for cold storage arrangements.

Radio operators usually eat in shifts, or food will be brought out to them. Continuing to make contacts remains the priority even during dinner! Most stations will need a number of operators for the 24-hour event. Some stations will stay in operation throughout the night. During the wee hours is when relief operators are especially appreciated.

Sunday morning, a hearty breakfast will be served, and lunch around noon. At 2 PM, the siren sounds and the contest is over! Remember, all station chairmen need to save their scores, and supply me with a copy of their logs to send to the ARRL.

I know everyone is a bit worn out after the contest and all it involves, but tear-down and pack-up will go much smoother if everyone that can help, stays the extra hour or two to be sure everyone involved is ready to shove off.

—Continued on Page 9

Field Day—From Page 8

There are usually a bunch of happy, but tired hams who hang out a while to talk about the great weekend adventure.

If you are available for Field Day weekend in any capacity, please contact me to sign up to run a station or offer to help at a station. I

will have a sign up poster board at each club meeting. Look it over to see what you would like to try.

There are many bands and special categories that you can sign up for. Most stations need two or more hams to come up with the equipment and a suitable place to

operate from. Sign up and put your team together, or join a team, but don't miss out on this fantastic event.

73, Phil, W8IC

Meeting Minutes—From Page 4

New Business

George, K8GEO promoted the MS 150 bike ride, to be held on the weekend of July 15-16, Saturday and Sunday. The route is from a park in North Oakland County to East Lansing. Radio volunteers are needed to provide communications along the route.

Vote taken on the color of this year's Field Day T-shirt, GREY won.

Business portion concluded at 7:57PM.

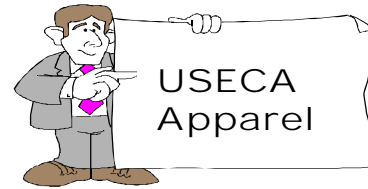
The program was provided by Phil, W8IC on Field Day rules/regulations, Jerry, N8KLX on the logging software, Dennis, W8DFG on the kitchen. Floyd, W8RO provided a video and commentary on his recent job at the winter Olympics in Italy. .

Motion was made to close the meeting at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann, KT8F, Recording Secretary

USECA VE Testing

Testing will be the FIRST Thursday of the month from September through June. Joe, N8OZ will have the CVE duty. No pre-registration is needed or wanted. Test Fee is \$14.00. Applicants need copies and originals of CSCE's and/or license. There is no copy machine at the Elks; (there is none close by). Starting time is 7:00 p.m. — please do not arrive earlier. Walk-ins are welcomed. Test site is at the Mt. Clemens Elks, 179 S. Main St., Mt. Clemens. If testing, you must have the following: picture ID (or birth certificate); and a copy of your current license or completion certificates, if any.



Jackets-\$45.00 • Sweatshirts-\$25.00
Polo Shirts-\$22.00 • Caps-\$6.00
(2X & 3X-Additional Charge)
Contact: Chuck, N8ZA
At Meetings or Phone (586) 557-4983

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

USECA Cork Board

? Radio Items?

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

GENERAL Radio Freq. Measuring Equipment; 2-6' cabinets; w/all frequency equipment; w/manuals; lots of electronics; \$250.

HEATHKIT Transceiver model HW-16; w/manual. 80-40 & 15 meters; no crystals; \$35.

HEATHKIT SWL radio model GR-81; 160-80-40-20 meters; w/manual \$50.

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

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

Kenwood TS-140S. Great condition, in original box with operator and service manual. Only \$395!

LARSEN dual band glass mount mobile antenna model: KG-2/70. It is used, but in good condition. Only \$45!

RADIO Chest Pack. This is an all black Lone Peak Designs radio chest pack. You can strap your HT to your chest just like the pros do! These are the very same chest packs used by public service and search and rescue personnel. Many are also used by Hams during public service activity. It is brand new and costs only \$30! The normal price is close to \$35.

Contact Floyd, W8RO at w8ro@k8uo.com or 248-431-7769.

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

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

? Miscellaneous Items?

CHEVROLET, 2003 Trailblazer 4WD (W8RO/M). Excellent condition, loaded. Sandlewood exterior, Tan interior. 29K miles. Only \$19,995! For more details, contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769 or w8ro@k8uo.com.

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

SONY Trinitron Multiscan E540 21" CRT Computer Monitor with manual; like new; 2 years old. \$195. Contact Joe, K8OEF at (586) 781-0050 or k8oef@k8uo.com.



FOR SALE

COMET SBB5NMO – BRAND NEW! Dual-band 2M/440, blacked-out "stealthy" antenna, with tilt-over feature so you can get in the garage, I bought two from ComDac at the last swap but only needed one (AB8MJ's truck); I paid \$60 and so will you!

Archer Video Selector – Radio Shack Cat# 15-1261, has 7 F-connectors on the back, couple switched up front; \$5.

Archer Special Effects Switcher -- Radio Shack Cat# 15-1274, 110V; \$5.

SPECO PAT-20 – 20W audio PA amp, with mic; \$10.

Micronta Power Supply -- Radio Shack Cat# 22-124, 12VDC, 2.5A, manual; \$10.

Realistic WX Radio -- Radio Shack Cat# 12-156, pocket weather radio, built-in telescopic ant. \$10.

Optimus AM/FM -- Radio Shack Cat# 12-794, pocket radio, works; \$5.

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

Heathkit HS1661 – external speaker, no cord, good condition; \$50.

American Electrola DXC-100 – rare tabletop radio, only 2000 ever made, all solid state, American made with American components, allegedly the last USA-made SW radio actually made in the USA, HF receiver up to 30 MHz + FM '3M' band, AM/FM/SW, digital LED display, direct entry keypad, wooden case, front firing speaker, large internal wire loop antenna, long telescopic antenna, ext. jack, power supply, original owners manual; \$95.

Radio Shack Micronta 21-525B – SWR/Field strength meter, sold "as is"; \$10.

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

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

1999 BMW R1100S – email for details and sale flyer; \$5900.

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

1/4" Phono – all metal male phono plug, use for mono headphones and such; \$1.

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

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

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

Dummy Load – "twin tower" dual massive ceramic resistors, looks like 50+W easy; \$15.

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

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

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

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

Wall Warts – various voltages, email with needs; \$2 to \$5.

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

K-40 10/11M Whip – 4' fiberglass, black, tunable, substitute for original K-40 stainless whip & base load, no mount or coax just the antenna; \$5.

K40 -- 10/11M base-loaded antenna with SS whip, no base for it just antenna; \$10.

Regency CB-501 -- 40 ch CB radio, with mic, "as is"; \$10.

Colt 220 – 40 ch CB radio, with mic and power cord, "as is"; \$10.

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

★New or changed this month.

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

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

Name Badges

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

USECA APPLICATION



Rev. 3/06

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

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

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

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

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

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

Local Area FM Nets

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

VHF PL'S — 100 Hz

On The World Wide Web
 USECA Home Page

WWW.USECA.NET

Local HF Nets

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

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

Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM	SUN. 8 PM**
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
1	VA3IDJ	W1IK
2	KT8F	N8EB
3	-OPEN-	W8RIT
4	-OPEN-	KW8Z
5*	WB8E	-OPEN-

*If applicable

**Traders/Helpers Net

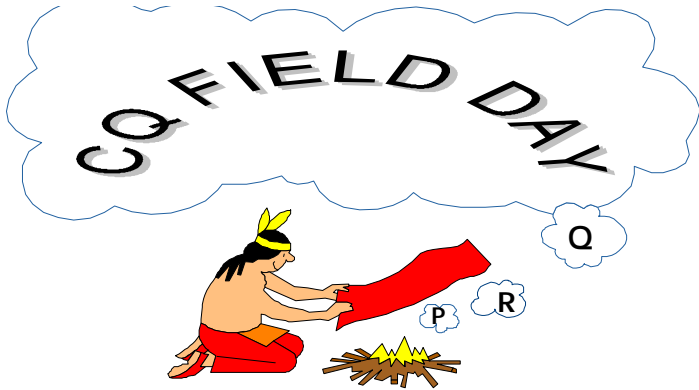
NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement or contact Brian, KC8DIR (586) 749-4561—Don't wait!

USECA

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

PLACE
STAMP
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



JUNE 2006

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
JUN	1	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
JUN	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting & Fox Hunt
JUN	24-25		Field Day
SEP	7	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
SEP	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting
OCT	5	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
OCT	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting
OCT	29	8:00 am	USECA 21st Annual Swap
NOV	2	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
NOV	7	7:30 pm	General Meeting (Nominations)
DEC	7	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
DEC	TBA	7:00 pm	USECA 19th Annual Christmas Party
DEC	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting (Elections)

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