



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 23, Number 6, June 2007

The Dummy's Guide To Chairing A Field Day Station

Bill Chesney, N8SA

So you volunteered to chair a station at Field Day? HUH? WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?

Not really! That is a thankless job, but a valuable one. You are carrying on a tradition of ham radio that dates back to the main reason for our being, emergency communications. We started out just relaying messages up and down the east coast via radio hauled to the field with horse drawn wagons. These old rigs used huge generators driven by steam tractors and usually were spark gap or some such ilk—thus the relay part of the ARRL.

The old radios range was not like our new HF rigs that can go worldwide from a car or backpack. They sucked as effective communication devices but they were a hell of a lot better than the pony express. Stations had to "relay" messages over and over to get from point A to B over a few hundred miles. Nowadays we do it with a hand held on a repeater. (Yeah, they did go to school through three-foot snowdrifts uphill both ways for 6 miles each way!) You have it easy, so quit yer bitchin' already. We will get you through this—honest, and you won't need any horses or snow shoes!

Prelims—First thing is to plan the antenna system and the shelter. Creature comfort is very important. If you are not comfortable, you won't be able to perform as well and won't enjoy it much. Yeah, this is supposed to be FUN! Find, borrow, rent, steal, or otherwise get a trailer or motor home if possible. We will be running QRP, which means we will have 5 watts out of radio and will be powered by batteries.

Your friendly FD chair people have already arranged for batteries for everyone so that problem is done. You will need to be able to connect to the battery supplied. Most of them are bolt posts, but some are automotive type posts. You will only need to have a good set of clamps on end of wire to connect to battery. Power problem solved.

Antennas—THE most important part of the QRP FD station. For VHF to 40 meters you should have a short haul antenna and a longer one. I prefer to have a vertical for DX and longer haul links, and a horizontal one for shorter hops (1 or 2 States) this year all of South America is included in the contest so we could need some DX antennas. In the past that was not such a big deal. I would not put too much into this antenna though as there not likely be a lot of participation, this being the first year of their inclusion. Do not underestimate the value of a cloud burner (low hop, high angle radiator) for close in work.

I have been doing 40 meters for many years and we always analyze our previous years results with the scatter plot tool in our logging software. It can really help you plan an effective antenna system. If this is your first year, fear not, get on the repeater and ask questions or contact your field chairmen. We have lots of help, suggestions, equipment, contacts for help, etc. We have been doing this for years.

—Continued on Page 7

Save the Dates!

Annual USECA Campout

Ann, KT8F

Dates: September 21-23, 2007
Place: Algonac State Park

We stay in the Riverfront Area. Will try to arrange a group area if possible—if not, I will provide information soon on sites to choose from.

Camp Friday and Saturday nights, leave Sunday, or whenever. If you do not plan to camp, just show up as guests on Saturday and hang out for the day. Bring your own chair. There will be grills going, so you are welcome to bring your own meat and use a grill. Also, it would be nice to bring a dish to share, so we can enjoy a great feast.

We may have a fish boil, more information will be forthcoming on this, via nets and the website.

It goes without saying, bring your radio and antenna!

Reservation information: 1-800 44 Parks, or website:
www.michigan.gov/dnr

Contact Ann, KT8F or Dennis, W8DFG with any questions.

73.

Next Meeting — June 11

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	Joe Kennedy/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Board Member	Tom Tincknell/N8ZI (586) 651-7239
Past President	Jim Wickstrom/W1IK (586) 771-4135

COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison	Bobby/N8CY (248) 879-7214
Awards Manager	Keith/N8EB (586) 777-6751
Door Prizes	-OPEN-
Editor	Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
Field Day Chair	Bill/N8SA, Steve/N8XO & Ray/N8UY
Health & Welfare	Walt/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Mailers/Sorters	Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
Net Manager	Keith/N8EB (586) 777-6751
Photographer	Wes/KD8DHS
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/N8ZI (586) 651-7239
Technical Director	Jim/W1IK (586) 771-4135
Technicians	KA8D; W8IC; WA8GQL; W8RO; AD8S; N8SA; W1SKU; N8ZI
VE Testing	Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Webmaster	Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

Jim/WY8I	Joe/K8OEF*	Fred/W1SKU
Phil/W8IC	Joe/N8OZ*	Chuck/N8ZA*
Jim/W1IK*	Floyd/W8RO	Tom/N8ZI*

PROGRAMMERS

Dennis/W8DFG	Jim/W1IK	Brad/N8VI
--------------	----------	-----------

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

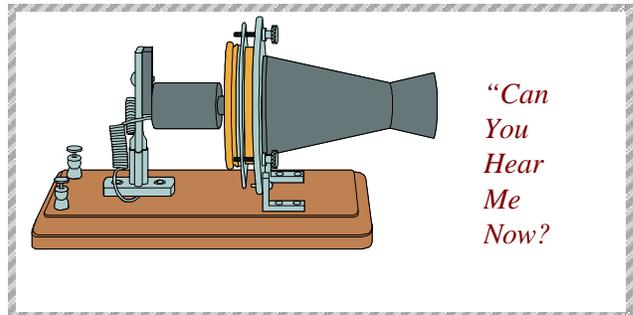
As you read this edition . . . I was happy to comply with the request to reprint the "Field Day Commandments" on Page 3; hope you enjoy it—again.

It was rewarding to learn that our newsletter placed 3rd in the recent ARRL contest. I viewed the two places above us—they did a real nice job—of course I'm biased; and should be!

It's done! The June edition is going to print and now our entire editorial staff will be taking its well-deserved two-month vacation. I hope you enjoy it as much as we will!

As the song goes . . . "See You In September."

73 for now.



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 VE Testing

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

[A Blast From The Past—Appropriate Timing]**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.

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. [22-24 for 2007]

[The above is a requested reprint from the Express—June 2006.]

USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—May 7, 2007

In attendance:

N8ZA, Chuck	President
N8VI, Brad	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
KW8Z, Ken	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
WB8E, Walt	Board Member
N8OZ, Joe	Board Member
N8ZI, Tom	Board Member
W11K, Jim	Past President

*Absent



Meeting called to order by the President at: 07:45 PM.

Motion to accept the minutes of the last BOD meeting made by Jim, W11K, supported by Dennis, W8DFG, motion carried.

Treasurer's report provided by Dennis. Dennis stated that we have not made our usual monthly donation to the Elk's for our use of the kitchen facilities for the Eat-Before-You-Meet. He notified the BOD that he would make instead a donation to the Elk's for \$50.00 for the Elkfest benefit for the MDA. Motion to accept made by Walt, supported by Ken, motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z – new member approved, now have 150 members currently.

Webmaster: Brad, N8VI – essentially nothing new to report. Elmer's workbench is now on the website. Brad will have an entire page on field day also up and running soon, easy to access.

Technical: Jim, W11K – has a game plan for the new controller equipment soon, needs to talk with the manufacturer. Contact person has been reached for the west site – the site will be discontinued soon. West site has not been in operation since January. Ongoing maintenance continues.

Trustee: Dennis, W8DFG – requested that control ops advise repeater users to stop quick-keying as necessary.

Field Day: Ray – we are now at 13A.

Health and Welfare: Walt, WB8E – will get cards for ailing members.

Pre-Field Day – discussion regarding details of who will bring what.

Fund raising: possibilities discussed. Tom, N8ZI made a motion that we bring before the membership a request to approve the cost of an HF radio (not to exceed \$1000.00) to be raffled off as a fund raiser. Discussion. The tickets will sell for \$20.00 each, and will be limited to 100 tickets to be sold. If 100 tickets are sold by Field Day, the drawing will take place then; otherwise the drawing will take place at our swap. Motion seconded by Dennis, W8DFG. Vote taken, motion carried.

Old Business:

Walt, WB8E – the field day shirts will be available for sale at the pre-field day picnic.

New Business:

Dennis, W8DFG will bring to the floor a budget of \$1800.00 to cover field day expenses for a vote of approval.

Phil, W8IC discussed USECA forming a group to build up a portable satellite antenna platform. This could be used for school demonstrations, field day and lent to members to experiment with satellite communications. It was decided that Larry, W8SOX, should head up the group. He will be informed.

Chuck, N8ZA showed a vectorized (high resolution) version of our club logo, which will be available for all club members to use.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Joe and 2nd by Brad, motion carried, meeting adjourned at: 9:01 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F
Recording Secretary



General Meeting—May 14, 2007

In attendance:

N8ZA, Chuck	President
N8VI, Brad	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
*KW8Z, Ken	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
WB8E, Walt	Board Member
N8OZ, Joe	Board Member
N8ZI, Tom	Board Member
W11K, Jim	Past President

*Absent

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

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

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Bob, KZ8N and 2nd by Rib, KD8ENP, motion carried.

Treasurer's report provided by Dennis, W8DFG. Motion to approve made by Steve, N8XO and 2nd by Ray, N8UY; motion carried.

Membership: 150 members, per acting membership secretary Jim, WY8I.

Website: Brad, N8VI has made some changes, notably on the events page. More to come. USECA's website address: www.useca.net.

Express: no report, Joe, K8OEF not present. Generally the USECA Express will be posted on the website on the Monday after the meeting, the 3rd Monday of the month.

Technical: Jim, W11K – new controller will be purchased soon. West site is no longer active.

Walt, WB8E – has the club T-shirts ready for sale.

Old Business:

Ann, KT8F reported on the pre-field day picnic.

—Continued on Page 6

Beep...Got ya in there...

Keith, N8EB

YEP, IT'S BEEN ABOUT a year or so now, and that means it's time to remind everyone about use of a repeater. Not just our repeater, but repeaters in general. I am not writing this because I know it all and never do any of these habits - as a matter of fact I learned of them because I am guilty of most of these things at one time or another - my wonderful buds in USECA brought it to my attention that I was wrong.

First of all the "courtesy beep" - you know, that neat little tone you get when you "kerchunk" a repeater? Oh, you NEVER kerchunk a repeater? You have NEVER hit the PTT switch to see if your radio and the repeater are working correctly? The first 6 months I was a ham I actually thought that kerchunking was a diagnostic procedure for repeaters! C'mon, make it legal and give your call sign when you check that repeater!

When you are in a QSO on a repeater and one of you stop transmitting, listen for the beep and count out two seconds - one thousand one, one thousand two - before you key up. There are two reasons for this, both of which are important, one for the repeater and one for emergencies.

That "courtesy beep" as it is commonly called is not there for "courtesy" reasons. On the mechanical side, it is there to tell you that the time out timer has been re-set. Most, if not all, repeaters have a feature to shut off transmit if a certain time limit has been reached to protect the repeater from overheating and burning the radio up. If you don't hear the beep, the timer has not been reset - not only do you risk having your important message get cut off, you start to overheat the machine - wait for the beep.

Now for my pet peeve...you try to throw your call sign out when you hear the beep only to release your PTT and hear the conversation going on. No one heard you - they didn't count to two

after the courtesy beep - commonly called "quick keying".

Hopefully you are only trying to join the QSO, but what if you have a real emergency? Say you don't have a cell phone and an injury accident happened right in front of you, and you need someone to call an ambulance? You may be a member of the club and feel you have top rights to the repeater, but emergency traffic ALWAYS comes first - if they can get in. Besides all of that, it's just common courtesy to let everyone in.

Let's say you hear the courtesy tone, throw your call out, and it IS heard. However the next in line says "OK Billy Bob, gotcha in there..." and goes on talking for 2 minutes and throws it over to someone else. You are still right behind that accident that needs an ambulance, but by the time the rotation gets back around to you, you could have carried the victims to a hospital in Ohio on your back. If someone throws their call out - turn it over to them! If it's not an emergency they will likely just ask to be put into the rotation.

Common courtesy - that's all it takes to use our system, and most people use it. Use of a repeater is NOT a constitutional right - it is a privilege! Here are some other (but not all) repeater guidelines - again, these are the ones I have already broken!

1. ID with your call every 10 minutes or at the end of a conversation.
2. Don't ramble on about nothing if others are waiting to use the machine. You don't HAVE to talk the full 2 minutes until the timer shuts you off!
3. If there are several people using the machine, "pass it" to the next person.
4. This is a "family repeater" - watch that language!

Where "HAM" Came From

Dick, AF8X

I heard a discussion on the repeater about the derivation of the name "HAM" This is what I found and believe to be true.

Why an amateur radio operator is called a "ham" - it goes like this:

The word ham was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some members of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert S. Hymann, Bob Almy and Peggie Murray. At first they called their station Hyman - Almy - Murray. Tapping this out on code called for a revision and they changed it to Hy - Al - Mu, using the first two letters of each name. Early in 1909, some confusion resulted between signals from amateurs wireless Hyalmu and a Mexican ship named Hyalmo, so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and the call became "Ham."

NET POINT STANDINGS

CALL	NAME	VHF Point	HF Point	TOTAL
N8ZA	CHUCK	68	125	193
N8ZI	TOM	85	77	162
W1IK	JIM	55	58	113
WY8M	ARPAD	11	88	99
N8ZY	BOB	24	68	92
N8ESM	PAT	8	70	78
KW8Z	KEN	48	16	64
WB8E	WALT	25	30	55
N8YBY	LEONARD	49	4	53
N8EB	KEITH	46	4	50
KD8CXJ	ED	49	0	49
W8SOX	LARRY	30	4	34
N8UO	KEN	6	22	28
W8OMC	KEN	2	26	28
WB8AHJ	STEVE	1	26	27
KA2IBE	JOHN	26	0	26
W8TRC	TOM	23	0	23
WB8OAF	BILL	22	0	22
W8WTH	RICHARD	20	0	20
AA8GK	PETE	20	0	20
N8VI	BRAD	4	16	20
N8OZ	JOE	19	0	19
N8UJ	CHUCK	8	10	18
KC8ZVA	KEN	14	4	18
KC8SYO	BOB	17	0	17
N8UY	RAY	11	6	17
N5WCS	MIKE	13	4	17
K8BSG	CARL	3	14	17
KG4JTC	DAVE	16	0	16
NF8X	ALEC	13	2	15
KD8CWT	WAYNE	0	14	14
W1NB	SCOTT	1	12	13
AA8OZ	PAUL	9	4	13
KC8HMG	JANICE	13	0	13
N8KA	JOE	13	0	13
W8BHF	BOB	12	0	12
WB8H	GORDIE	11	0	11
KT8F	ANN	11	0	11
K8PJQ	RICH	11	0	11
N8HTV	JOHN	11	0	11
WB8FUI	PHIL	10	0	10
W8DFG	DENNIS	10	0	10
N8COQ	KEN	2	8	10
KD8ENP	ROB	9	0	9
W1SKU	FRED	1	8	9
WY8I	JIM	9	0	9
AB8XR	GARY	8	0	8
VE3LXX	JOSHUA	8	0	8
KI8JN	PHIL	7	0	7
KC8CPT	DON	7	0	7
K7SDF	DON	7	0	7
KV8Z	CHRIS	5	2	7
K8DXX	BILL	6	0	6
W8EDX	ED	2	4	6
K8RFP	RON	5	0	5
KB8IIB	BRIAN	5	0	5
AB8XN	CHUCK	5	0	5
KC8WXF	JIM	4	0	4
VE3GNX	DON	2	2	4
KC8NAG	JIM	4	0	4
KC8QEH	GARY	4	0	4
KC8ZRY	TOM	4	0	4
KW8J	LEO	4	0	4
K3AAD	AL	0	4	4
N8KC	KEN	4	0	4
N8ZU	RAY	4	0	4

Submitted by Keith, N8EB

Meeting Minutes—From Page 4**New Business:**

Dennis, W8DFG – spoke about the kitchen needs for Field Day. He has tins available for your pass-a-dish. Dennis made a motion that the clubs authorize a budget of \$1800.00 for Field Day expenditures. Motion supported by Wayne, N8RAR, vote taken, motion carried. Dennis discussed the proposed menu.

If you participate in any way at Field Day, the club will cover your meals. If no participation, a fee will be charged for the meals. The tent assembly should start by noon on Friday; help is appreciated for this task.

Swap; Tom, N8ZI has sent emails to last year's vendors, has received some responses. Has been checking on prices on tables etc.

Larry, W8SOX talked about the new museum ship Bramble in Port Huron. On June 9 and 10, a special event contest will take place. We are encourage to set up radio stations and participate. All are invited, should be a good time. The vessel Bramble is at the foot of Water Street, south of the terminal. Several other ships in the US will also be participating in this event. The call sign to be used will be W8B. More info will be provided on our web page.

Ann, KT8F – the annual fall campout will be held the weekend of September 21 and 22 (Friday and Saturday nights, checkout Sunday) at Algonac State park. More info to come.

Thanks to Phil, W8IC and Ann, KT8F for running tonight's foxhunt prior to the meeting. Results: 1st place – Ed, KC8CXJ and Tom, N8ZI at 7 minutes, 2nd place – Brad, N8VI and Rob, KD8ENP at 40 minutes, 3rd place – Paul, AA8OZ and Brent, KD8FVP, at 41 minutes.

Thanks to Walt, WB8E and crew for providing tonight's excellent eat-before-you-meet dinner. Hamburgers and hot dogs, fries and more were on the menu.

Chuck, N8ZA brought to the membership the idea of a fund-raiser: purchasing the radio for a raffle as discussed at the board meeting. (See BOD meeting minutes). Chuck explained how it would work and asked for a show of hands to see how much interest there would be in purchasing tickets. A large number of hands went up. Steve, N8XO made a motion to authorize an expenditure of up to \$1000.00 for the purchase of a radio to be raffled off. Motion seconded by Wayne, N8RAR, discussion, details discussed, vote taken, motion carried.

50 members and visitors were present at tonight's meeting.

Business portion of the meeting concluded at 8:20 PM.

Tonight's program provided by Steve, N8XO and Bill, N8SA on Field Day.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F
Recording Secretary

The Dummy's Guide—From Page 1

Don't be afraid to tap some experience. Personally I have done almost everything wrong or seen it done so I can help you avoid a few mistakes. Steve, and Ray can help too. The ARRL's "Wire Antenna Classics" book should be declared the bible of FD antenna books. I have it in my collection and it can be borrowed.

So, get your team working NOW on designing and building the antenna, and for God's sakes try it out at Pre-FD or somewhere at a park or field location. Excise Murphy NOW—don't invite his sorry butt to our FD due to lack of planning and preparation. Don't make it too complicated. The old dipole works very well if put up high, and a ¼ wave or ½ wave verticals round out the planning nicely. That does not mean you have to use those, but you get the idea.

Towers and push up poles are the best supports for these arrays. Make sure they are sturdy to survive inclement weather. We have had some wild weather in the past. Guy ropes are cheap insurance, use lots of them! You can also "cage" a mast with a stainless steel wire support cage around them to make them incredibly strong, allowing it to go much higher than normal, possibly a full size vertical for 80m, or a support to hold a dipole up at 60 feet. Believe me a dipole or Windom or G5RV at that height works so well you won't believe the difference over 40 feet. Something magical happens above 40 feet for most of these antennas. The old adage of antennas "put the most metal the highest you can" is a pretty good goal.

All the other STUFF: Now, here is a short list to have for your station.

- **Radios**—2 at least.
- **Feedlines**—good quality...don't give up any of those 5 watts for nothing. Have extra with connectors.
- **Grounding**—don't forget to ground the system with a ground rod. If you are using anything

with a tuner, a counterpoise is a must! It must be at least ¼ wave on your band.

- **Antenna Tuners**—good quality and automatic or built into rig if possible. Keep operator "busy work" to a minimum. A good built-in meter for SWR and power out is good. DO NOT leave meters inline if not needed for a tuner. They are an unnecessary loss.
- **Laptops**—2 with ability to run from 12 volts. Best is to have a DC-DC power supply. Inverters are very inefficient and drain batteries faster. Download copy of Jerry's FD software from USECA web page and install and make sure you KNOW how to use it so you can teach your crew.
- **Interface(s)**—If you are running a digital station, make sure you have a back up interface. If you have a new one, MAKE SURE it works BEFORE coming to site. Know how to use it and connect it to the radios you have, and try it out ahead of time.
- **Sleeping quarters**—comfortable and AWAY from noise of station. A well-rested crew does best.
- **Antenna(s)**—as above but have a fall-back reserve unit.
- **Generator**—to run fans, A/C, etc., for creature comfort if rules allow it this year. I will keep all posted on this.
- **Regulations**—Have a printed copy of FD regs for this year with you to settle any disputes regarding them. FD chairpersons will be familiar and can assist in such questions.

There are always other incidentals and forgotten items to deal with. Have one member of the crew be the late arrival and call to get last minute list of items needed before coming to site.

I hope this all helps. Thanks for chairing a station. If you are not a chair but are reading to back up your chairperson, good for you! Have fun and see you all at FD.

Bill, Steve, and Ray
USECA FD Chairs 2007

Ham Plates

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

IF YOU HAVE ever had your vehicle broken into and your +\$600.00 radio was missing, you know the helpless feeling you get when you look around and realize there is nothing you can do about it.

This happened to me a few years ago and since then I am very careful about where I park, always where my car is in sight of the public.

This year I had a better idea. When my license plate came up for renewal, I opted to get a generic non-ham plate. It occurred to me that a ham plate advertises, "there is radio equipment on board." This narrows the search for the potential thief.

Years ago I thought it was cool to have a ham plate and enjoyed other hams tooting as they passed, recognizing a fellow communicator. The small through-the-glass 2/440 meter antenna is the only visible evidence of ham gear on my car now and could easily be mistaken for a cell phone antenna.

I think it's sad that you can't advertise your interest in something because of others who would take advantage of it, but that's how it is these days.

USECA Cork Board

Radio Items

[None]

Miscellaneous Items

SONY Trinitron Multiscan E540 21" CRT Computer Monitor with manual; like new; 2 years old. \$125. Contact Joe, K8OEF at (586) 781-0050.

★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

★FOR SALE

CUSHCRAFT R5 -- 10-12-15-17-20M HF vertical ant., details at: <http://www.cushcraft.com/support/pdf/r5.pdf> , works great, looking to upgrade; \$100.

ELECRAFT K1 — four-band version with ALL internal options, presently set up for 15-20-30-40M, digital display, menu options, XIT/RIT, amazing auto antenna tuner, noise blanker, 3-stage cw filter, built-in battery pack, built-in speaker, internal/external power switch, original box and assy manual, color-matched Palm Paddle key affixed with spare key base and extra cord, will include small padded carrying case and bnc adaptor, looks/works great; \$600- firm - OR - trade K1 + \$\$\$ for TS-2000.

Kenwood TR-2500 -- 2M HT, no battery but has cigarette lighter plug battery-pack by-pass thingie, LCD digital display, PL encode board inside, this HT not for sale but free to use for a month for any newly licensed ham radio operator who needs a temporary rig!

Heathkit SW-7800 – short wave receiver, AM/SSB/CW 150kHz-30MHz, base station model, built-in power supply, digital LED display and analog S-meter, front-firing built-in speaker, headphone jack, three antenna ports; \$150.

Philips TrenchMOS FET – BUK9508 55A N-channel enhancement mode FET transistors, 55 Vds at 125 A (Id), TO220AB case, have 30 of them in an anti-static sleeve, eBay sells for \$2.55; Buy whole sleeve for \$40.

American Electrola DXC-100 – rare tabletop radio, only 2000 ever made, all solid state, all American made with only American components, the last USA-made consumer 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.

TrippLite PR-40 – DC power supply, 13.8VDC, 40A, no meters, ¼" lugs on back; \$100.

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

Sprague Model 500 – Interference Locator, apparently used by some clever hams as an SWL rig, receives 550kHz to 220MHz, has a phono jack output, external power jacks, still has original Burgess batteries (no leaks) and antennas in the removable lid; \$75.

Optimus 33-3021 – Uni-Directional Microphone, black, on/off switch, cord; \$20.

ElectroVoice 634A – microphone, short cable; \$5.

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.

Heathkit Assembly Manual HX-10 – good condition, appears complete; \$10.

Heathkit Manual Deluxe SWL Receiver GR-54 – poor condition, may be complete; \$5. — **Heathkit 1984 catalog** – good condition; \$5.

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 antenna; \$10.

BUD Filter LF-601 – variable low-pass filter, SO-239 PL-type connectors, 5 adjusters; \$20.

Meissner 15-7510 – "Wave Trap" (filter), 6Mc to 13Mc, for ladderline; \$10.

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

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

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

NEC Computer Monitor – model XV17+, 17" color, works; \$50.

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 battery, DC coaxial plug on phone end; \$5.

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; \$5.

Regency CB-501 -- 40 ch CB radio, with mic, "as is"; \$5.

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

USECA APPLICATION



Rev. 9/06

DATE _____ NEW RENEWAL MAIL PRINTED NEWSLETTER
 CALL _____ CLASS _____
 NAME _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 TELEPHONE # _____ PRINT # IN ROSTER 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 — Mail Printed Newsletter, ADD \$10.00
 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
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 CW	21.140
FRI	10:00 pm	USECA/80 Meter CW	3.570
FRI	11:00 pm	USECA/10 Meter Phone USB	28.425

Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM	SUN. 8 PM**
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
1	-OPEN-	W1IK
2	KT8F	N8EB
3	-OPEN-	N8ZI
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 Keith, N8EB (586) 777-6751—Don't wait!

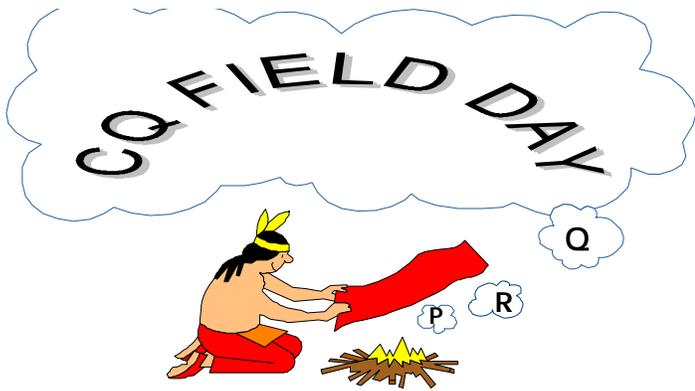
Listings in **BOLD** are USECA club nets, but ALL ARE WELCOME!

USECA

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL



JUNE 2007

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
JUN	1	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
JUN	11	7:30 pm	General Meeting & Fox Hunt
JUN	23-24		Field Day 2007
SEP	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting
SEP	17	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
SEP	21-23		USECA Campout
OCT	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting
OCT	15	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
OCT	28	8:00 am	USECA 22nd Annual Swap
NOV	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting (Nominations)
NOV	19	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
DEC	TBA	7:00 pm	USECA 20th Annual Christmas Party
DEC	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting (Elections)
DEC	17	7:00 pm	VE Test Session

Inside This Issue	
Field Day—Dummy's Guide.....	1
Annual USECA Campout.....	1
Still Going.....	2
VE Testing.....	2
Field Day Commandments.....	3
USECA Meeting Minutes.....	4
Beep...Got ya in There.....	5
Where "HAM" Came From.....	5
Net Point Standings.....	6
Ham Plates.....	7
USECA Cork Board.....	8
USECA Membership Application.....	9
Local Area FM and HF Nets.....	9
Net Ops Schedule.....	9
Club Activities (Cover)	