



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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USECA Field Day 2007

Bill, N8SA

THINK FIELD DAY! That is going to be the chant on the repeater for months. Get used to it. Embrace it. Love it. Get involved in it!

OK, enough hype. Not really, but I had to do that! As most of you know, your new Field Day "dictators" (Steve N8XO, Bill N8SA (who cares!), and Ray N8UY (ex-KD8CX) are gearing up for the Big Day and you should be too. Now, while the weather is favorable—I can't believe it is still in the 40's—it is time to get those antennas designed and built. Remember the Mantra of QRP—ANTENNA, ANTENNA, ANTENNA! With proper engineering it is possible to make that 5 watts sound like 100. Here, this month I add some ideas to assist that pursuit.

—Continued on Page 8

Eat B 4 U Meet

For the month of March, the crack kitchen crew will be featuring, for a small nominal fee of course, Coney Dogs, with an undetermined side dish. We will start serving at 6:00 PM and serve till all the Dogs are gone.

Dennis, [W8Dah](#) [Food Guy](#)

Dixie Jones' Owl Juice

I wish fine guys would git another word for mojudation. I'm sicka hearin' it. Ever time you tune oneof these monkeys in you can bet your last blame dime that he'll say "mojudation" seven times before he stops talkin'. Of course, I don't hafto lissen, but fone guys is guys like other guys, except the difference, and lots of them I call friend in spite of their affliction, and I lissen in a lot in hopes that some day I'll hear one of them say sumpn I want to know about like for instance how is he, and how's the younguns, and is he still got a job, and does the OW still love him as much as could be expected, and things like that, but all I heard so far is mojudation. One time this writer was a Signal Corps soldier on his way to be a radio op in Nome. My little group had to tarry at Fort Lawton, on the fringes of Seattle, for a week or two, awaiting a steamer to take us to the land of dog teams and dried salmon and thermometers with the zero mark half way up. Fort Lawton was garrisoned by negro troops, a disquieting circumstance to those of us from a land where it is contrary to long established custom for whites and negros to eat together. There may be "abolition men and maids" somewhere within the vast throng of readers of this magazine which has no rival, who will say that the custom is more honored in the breach than the observance. I do not know. I merely state a fact. I follow the customs of my clan, as a rule, but not to the extent of going hungry.

—Continued on Page 2

Vote Results

The balloted vote was taken at the February meeting on moving the General Meeting to the 2nd Monday of the month. The motion passed by the 31 members present.

We will start the new night beginning in September. This will allow sufficient time to notify the members.

My Ham Radio Adventure

Dick Arnold AF8X

Many years ago while I was dialing around the 20-meter phone band, I heard a phone station operating just above the upper limit of the ham band. It was a fairly strong signal and got even stronger as I rotated my three-element beam due south. I listened for a while and was surprised at what I was hearing. A voice with a southern accent was talking about what I thought was dope shipments. After listening for a while I was sure of it. I turned on my tape recorder and noted the frequency, and then looked up the number of the local FBI office and made a call to them. After explaining what I heard, I was informed that I was contacting the wrong agency. They gave me the number to the Treasury Department and told me to contact them. I called and gave the information to the agent on the phone and after I hung up, went back to monitoring the radio.

—Continued on Page 7

Next Meeting — March 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	Joe Kennedy/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Board Member	Tom Tinctnell/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/KC8HJM
Repeater Trustee	Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Swap Director	Tom/N8ZI (586) 651-7239
Technical Director	Jim/W1IK (586) 771-4135
Technicians	W8IC; K8FT; WA8GQL; W8RO; AD8S; N8SA; W1SKU
VE Testing	Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Webmaster	Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

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

PROGRAMMERS

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

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

The 2007 USECA Membership Roster will be mailed to all members.

Due to personal conflicts, my involvement in the club has been reduced—so if I am light on activity and the news, etc., please excuse me.

It's just a hobby, but I will continue to support our club in any way possible.

73 for now.

With nothing to fill this space, I thought I would remind you of the NEW daylight savings times for 2007.

Time to "Spring Ahead," this year will be on Sunday March 11th—until they change it again, it will be the second Sunday in March. (In the past it was the first Sunday in April.)

The time to "Fall Back" will be on November 4th. From now on, it will be the first Sunday in November. (In the past, it was the last Sunday in October.)

Keep an eye on your computer—it probably doesn't know of the time switch on those dates.

Now you can impress all your friends with your knowledge of this subject.

—Joe, K8OEF



DIXIE JONES'
OWL JUICE

Dixie Jones—From Page 1

My quick decision to eat was accelerated by the fact, that negro soldiers, throughout the Army, probably realizing their handicap, swing hard in the other direction, and positively glow, glisten, shine and sparkle with cleanliness. At the mess hall a Georgia youth newly arrived and mentally unprepared for what he saw gave voice to his objections to breaking a custom of the land we know. A solemn old patriarchal negro mess sergeant standing by the open portals watching the hungry horde file into his spotless domain, heard, and rumbled deep within the capacious confines of his dusky interior: "Go on in, white boy, God made us dis way." Negro soldiers are soldiers like white soldiers, except the difference. Perhaps it is just as well that our feller man comes in assorted shades and sizes and in different degrees of mental inaptitude, but I still wish fone men would say sumpn else for a change. --W4IR of the "Dixie Squinch Owl"

[Unedited] — Submitted by Dick AF8X

DIY Generator

Steve, N8XO

HAPPY New Year! Although it is only February, Field Day 2007 is just around the corner. This year, it will be from June 22nd through the 24th. As in years past, we will again be operating QRP—Battery. Bill, N8SA, Ray, N8UY and yours truly are looking forward to having a lot of fun this year. Bill, N8SA has called for 20A, and this is very do-able.

One of the most important parts of a station is the battery. For Field Day, since our gear runs on battery, having enough reserve power is crucial. No battery, no station; it's that simple. While this is not an article on batteries, per se, batteries *do* play a central part in this project. Whether practicing at Field Day or operating during a real emergency, having sufficient reserve capacity is critical. Also referred to as Amp-Hours (Ah), Watt-hours (W-h), and Reserve (in minutes), the higher the rating, the more operating time you have. Recharging sources may include, Solar, Wind, Fuel Cells, and Human Power, etc. Portable AC Generators are also an option, but as we know, these may not power our gear during the contest period.

With the recent widespread power outages, portable AC generators have become increasingly popular. Cost, power rating, noise, and other factors help determine which model will be purchased. An alternative solution is to "Do-It-Yourself" (DIY). Many internet searches have revealed several hams that have home-brewed their own generator. After **much** web searching, picture downloading, and correspondence with other DIYers, it was time to try it myself. While it doesn't exactly compete with the big 5-10kW Generacs and Colemans, it does take care of modest needs.

The two main parts to a DIY Generator are a lawnmower- or go-cart engine and a car alternator. The most common combination seen has been a 3.5 HP Briggs &

Stratton lawnmower engine and a 63A Delco 10SI alternator. Both are easy to find and can be had for a song. Higher amperage alternators, like the CS-series, will need a larger engine. Options may include battery, electric-start, AC Inverter, propane operation, and wheels for mobility. Since the SI and CS are internally-regulated models, wiring will be simplified.

Good deals were found on all the major parts: A new Electric-start 6.0 HP B&S vertical-shaft engine (\$110.00) and new a Delco CS-144 140A alternator (\$50.00), and a 90A-h battery (\$50). Since the ability to operate AC household appliances with engine shut down, batteries and inverter were a must.

The engine and alternator are mounted on separate ¼-inch thick Aluminum plates, and then bolted to an empty Coleman generator frame. For the coupling, automotive serpentine belt and pulleys were chosen. Adapters needed to be made to mount the pulleys to the ½-inch engine shaft. Choosing the right pulley size is important to avoid over-revving the alternator at high engine speeds or stalling the engine with sudden load increases. 5½", and 3½" pulleys were settled on for the engine and alternator, respectively. A safety shield is mounted underneath the pulleys and moving parts.

Next came the trimmings (wiring, switches, control panel, etc.). Heavy-duty wiring is used throughout; 2AWG from alternator to Copper bus bars to battery; and 4/0 AWG from bus bars to inverter. This arrangement minimizes voltage drops and enables jump-starting dead vehicles and charging different batteries. Controls will include a key switch for starting and stopping the engine, an on-off switch for the alternator field, Control panel for the AC Inverter, assorted circuit breakers, and heavy-duty connections for external 12V loads. An Inverter-Generator has an advantage over a conventional unit in

that it can run slower under light loads, and faster under heavy loads. This is because the inverter, and not the engine speed, produces the 60Hz needed for AC loads. For present, a manual throttle will be used. In the future, this will be replaced with a servo-controlled throttle to auto-adjust engine speed.

Since clean AC Power is desired, a sine wave inverter was chosen over the more common modified-sine wave models. Modern electronic appliances like computer systems, home-theaters, etc., don't like the harmonics contained in modified sine waves. A Xantrex ProSine 1800 was chosen, and its removable control panel allows remote mounting of the inverter to a more convenient location.

The main panel is divided into three sections: AC, DC, and Engine Control. The AC section includes a 15A GFCI duplex outlet, circuit breaker, and the inverter's control panel. The DC section includes a variety of connections ranging from 5-way binding posts to stud-mounted wing nuts, to ½-inch battery posts.

A 90Ah deep-cycle battery keeps things going when the engine is shut off. Heavy-duty connections allow connecting extra batteries thus enabling either off-board charging or increasing battery reserve capacity.

The plan is to use this at this year's Field Day, minus the engine down during the contest period. In addition to running radios, it would be nice to run lights and other AC appliances during quiet hours (night). Battery charging during contest hours is provided by an 80W solar array connected to a 12V input-output connection.

When the project is completed, pictures will be posted on the USECA website or in a future *USECA Express* issue.

73, de N8XO, Steve

Tech Committee News

Floyd Soo, W8RO

SEVERAL YEARS ago, when I agreed to take on the responsibilities of the USECA Technical Director, I had one goal in mind, and that was to replace the old repeater with the new repeater ("Ethel"). This entailed the replacement of everything at the main site; PA, power supply, voter, controller, remote receivers, audio circuits, EVERYTHING!

For the uninitiated, this is a daunting task. From start to finish, it took close to 10 years to assemble Ethel. Under normal circumstances, it would not take 10 years to build the repeater that we are using at the moment, but due to the fact that it is all volunteer work that is utilized for this project, it became very complicated with changing personnel, changes in technology, and difficult decisions that had to be made.

It was during Doug Martin's (N8KND) tenure as Tech Director that the repeater that we are using today began to come together, in ideas as well as "in the cabinet." This was in the mid-90s. After a handful of years, John Pollman (K8ZEC) took over as Tech Director. He continued work on the new repeater for a few more years. After John moved on, I took over and vowed to get the new repeater up and running, get it tested and installed. With the help of many people in the Tech Committee through those years, I was able to finish the job I set out to do.

I was a little reluctant, at first, to accept the directorship that many in the club were pushing toward. The primary reason is that I am NOT a technical guru. I do not have a sophisticated test bench with the requisite test gear to get the job done. What I WAS able to do was to delegate and organize what needed to be done. Without the help of Scott Madison (W1NB, ex-WN1B), Fred Holmes (W1SKU), Phil Manor (W8IC), and a host of others; I would not have been able to finish the job I set out to do. It was truly a team effort and there are many more folks whose name I have not mentioned here that have helped through the years. I am truly thankful for their assistance.

I have overstayed my welcome as the head of the Tech Committee, as "Ethel" has been in operation for over a year now. As of January, 2007, I have found a suitable sucker, uh, I mean person to take over the helm of the Technical Committee. If you haven't heard already, Jim Wickstrom (W1IK) has agreed to step in and carry the torch from here. If you all didn't know better, you'd think we were in New England with all these "1" call signs around! In any case, I have officially stepped down as head of the Tech Committee and I hope you all support Jim like you did me. I don't want to drop out completely, so I will continue to assist on the committee as long as I am welcome.

The work on the repeater system is certainly not done, as there are still voter issues to iron out, but as most of you have learned, there is constant maintenance in a complex repeater system like we have. This is why it is important to continually look and find "new blood" for the Tech Committee. As we've learned in the past, we do not want just one or two people doing all the work, as they will get burned out. The best plan is to spread the work load out over several people, that way, it's a team effort with each person in the team working on a small part of the project, and thus, not getting overwhelmed.

In closing, I wish to thank everyone who has assisted with this massive project for the last decade. I will not attempt to list everyone's name here, as I will, no doubt, end up leaving someone's name out, as it has been a LONG time since this project began. The USECA club is indebted to all these volunteers, as it takes the dedication and sacrifice of a few people on this committee to keep the membership happy by making sure the repeater system is working properly 24/7/365. I ALWAYS tried my best to show my appreciation to those who worked for this club on the repeater system. I hope we will continue to do so in the future. Thank you all for your support and talk to you on the repeater!

73 de W8RO

For Sale—Ten Tec Century 21—
From our Cork Board on Page 9.



USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—February 5, 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
W1IK, Jim	Past President
*Absent	



Meeting called to order by the President at 8:12 PM.

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

Treasurer's report by Dennis. Motion to accept made by Joe and supported by Brad, motion carried.

Membership: Ken – 121 members currently. Please renew by February 13 if you wish to be listed in the 2007 roster.

Website: Brad explained why website was down recently. Problem has been fixed.

Technical: Jim, W1IK – west site is currently up and running, but we are not using it at this time. We will have to vacate that location at some point. The repeater is functioning well at this time. North site remains available at this time, needs some work. Equipment brought in by Phil, W8IC, for dispersal to Technical committee members. Phil provided information on the benefits of having isolators. He has been looking into what is involved with an attempt to make the purchase. Discussion ensued.

Trustee: Dennis, W8DFG – nothing new to report.

Field Day: Nothing new at this time.

Swap: Tom, N8ZI – reported on current plans.

Health and Welfare – Walt reported on recent issues.

Old business:

Dennis reported on the current status of setting up our website domain. Discussion.

Dennis discussed providing compensation for Brian, KC8DIR for his storing our equipment for several years. Dennis made a motion that the BOD compensate Brian for storing this equipment as well as the club trailer by providing his membership dues. Motion supported by Jim, W1IK, discussion, motion carried.

New Business:

Ron, K8RFP addressed the BOD and requested privileges to use the repeater. The BOD informed Ron that this matter will be taken under advisement and he will receive a reply.

Blake, KC8PQA presented the BOD with a proposal that he would like to put together a series of 10-minute video tutorials on various technical issues related to ham radio for the benefit of our membership. These could eventually also be accessed on our website.

Blake showed sample videotape. Blake requested permission from the BOD to begin work on this project. Dennis made a motion that Blake should make these instructional videos (Elmer's workshop) for the benefit of the membership, seconded by Walt, discussion, motion carried. Thanks, Blake.

Tom, N8ZI – requested that USECA sponsor an ARISS (Amateur Radio International Space Station) contact for Armada Public Schools. Tom will organize this event. Motion made by Dennis, 2nd by Brad. Discussion. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ken, and 2nd by Walt, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary



General Meeting—February 13 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
W1IK, Jim	Past President
*Absent	

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

Quorum present 10% of membership present. 30 members present.

Introduction was made, new members, visitors and upgrades recognized.

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Alec, KC8ZIR and 2nd Keith, N8EB by, motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Dennis, W8DFG. Motion to approve made by Betty, N8SIH and 2nd by Leo, KW8J, motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z stated that membership is at 131.

Technical report: Jim, W1IK reported that he held his first Tech meeting prior to the Board meeting. Phil brought to that meeting equipment that he had at his house, and it was split up with the tech members present. In the fall we will have to look at the receive antenna at the main site, antenna is broken at base and needs to be replaced.

Website: Brad, N8VI problem with server but he hopes to have on-going problem solved.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – Not present at meeting.

Health & Welfare: Walt—Gary, KY8M was in the hospital for an emergency operation and a card was going around to be signed.

—Continued on Page 9

Flying Hams

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

MOST PILOTS ARE already familiar with the Morse code having learned the CW IDs from Nav-Aids. Although Morse code is no longer a requirement for the Amateur Radio license, it is still used by aviation and marine navigation aids and I have heard nothing about abandoning it for this purpose.

Pilots also have some advantage over most of the non-flying public in that they are used to radio communication and procedures. The Tech license is easily obtained by a simple test on basic electronics and regulations. All the questions and answers are published so all that is needed to pass is a fair memory.



The advantages to operating from an aircraft are numerous, one is the height AGL of the antenna, and one other is the fascination of hams to work an aeronautical mobile station. There should be no lack of hams waiting to contact you.

One of my more interesting aeronautical mobile contacts was with a 747 pilot over the Atlantic on a flight from Europe to the U.S. Our conversation was occasionally interrupted by his need to attend to some pilot duties. One of the interesting things I learned is that on the 747, the HF antenna wire is reeled out of a wing tip; whatever length is needed for the frequency in use.

Amateur radio is a hobby with thousands of hams listening, which means in case of an emergency landing in a remote area; in addition to an ELT the chance of a response from a Mayday call using amateur radio would be greater than with the short distance capability of a vhf aircraft radio.

Although there has been a large movement to do away with Morse code, one advantage to knowing Morse is that it can be sent by either audio, light signals, or electric. That can't be said about any other mode of communication.

Something that keeps coming back to mind when I think about aviation and radio is, if Amelia Earhart were more familiar with radio operation, she may well have found Howland Island.

From: <V73NS@aol.com>
Subject: QRV from Roi-Namur
Date: Monday, January 15, 2007



Hello all,

I am back on Kwajalein atoll after a tour in Iraq and northern Japan.

When I arrived back on Roi-Namur the antennas were in bad shape. The G5RV's ladderline was trashed from the wind and salt. At the top, one side was open. At the bottom, both conductors had failed. Since this antenna was up 2 years...this was to be expected. It was almost due for replacement when I left 14 months ago. Given the conditions here, I was replacing the whole antenna every 14 - 16 months.

The 1/2 wave 160 meter inverted L is still in place but it seems one of the islanders wanted the feed point and PL259. (Groan) I will have that repaired this week.

The 4BTV is still in place and still in good shape.

The window unit AC for the shack is failed...that happens a lot here due to the salt and it needs replaced. I hope that there are some replacements available.

The building the shack is in has, over the years, started to fall apart. There is again talk of demolishing the building sometime this year. I will start my efforts to have something, likely a CONEX (shipping container) put in place for use as a shack on the pad the present building is on. That keeps me near unused land for the antenna farm.

I will be active tonight (16 Jan GMT) around 0600Z GMT.

It's good to be back on the Atoll!

Watch the spots and listen for me as I brush up on my CW (not been on the air for 9 months).

73, Neil

Federal Income Tax Time

Certainly if you have to pay, you delay it as long as possible. This year gives you a delay from the normal date of April 15th to April 16th since the 15th is on a Sunday ... but ... it is possible to be the 17th because the 16th may be a holiday of some sort. But, be sure to check it out yourself. I'm just the messenger.

—Joe, K8OEF

NET POINT STANDINGS

CALL	NAME	VHF Point	HF Point	TOTAL
W1IK	JIM	22	28	50
N8ZA	CHUCK	16	32	48
N8ZI	TOM	17	18	35
N8ZY	BOB	10	24	34
WY8M	ARPAD	6	24	30
KW8Z	KEN	16	8	24
N8YBY	LEONARD	18	0	18
N8ESM	PAT	1	16	17
N8EB	KEITH	12	2	14
N8UY	ED	12	0	12
WB8E	WALT	6	6	12
WB8H	GORDIE	11	0	11
WB8AHJ	STEVE	0	10	10
W8OMC	KEN	1	8	9
W8SOX	LARRY	8	0	8
N8UO	KEN	2	6	8
N5WCS	MIKE	7	0	7
AA8GK	PETE	7	0	7
WB8OAF	BILL	7	0	7
W8WTH	RICHARD	6	0	6
K8BSG	CARL	0	6	6
KC8ZIR	ALEC	5	0	5
WY8I	JIM	5	0	5
KC8SYO	BOB	5	0	5
N8COQ	KEN	1	4	5
N8OZ	JOE	5	0	5
W8TRC	TOM	5	0	5
KA2IBE	JOHN	5	0	5
K8DXX	BILL	5	0	5
N8KA	JOE	4	0	4
K7SDF	DON	4	0	4
KD8ENP	ROB	4	0	4
KC8HMG	JANICE	4	0	4
KN5NN	CHUCK	2	2	4
KD8CXY	RAY	3	0	3
K8PJQ	RICH	3	0	3
KC8NAG	JIM	3	0	3
KC8LOC	TOM	2	0	2
KC8ZVA	KEN	2	0	2
W8BHF	BOB	2	0	2
W1NB	SCOTT	0	2	2
KD8EYV	MIKE	2	0	2
KG4JTC	DAVE	2	0	2
KC8ZCF	DOUG	2	0	2
KT8F	ANN	2	0	2
W8DFG	DENNIS	2	0	2
N8HTV	JOHN	2	0	2
N8QOQ	TOM	2	0	2
N8OV	KURT	2	0	2
N8KC	KEN	2	0	2
VE3VOG	DAN	0	2	2
WB8FUI	PHIL	2	0	2
AA8OZ	PAUL	2	0	2
W18A	ROD	0	2	2

Submitted by Keith, N8EB

My Radio Adventure—From Page 1

I was surprised at how freely they spoke, divulging information about their operation as if no one else could hear them. I continued listening for several days during which I learned the location of the phone booths in Florida they used for making and receiving calls as well as the Florida banks where they were making very large deposits. I listened to the radio advice about antennas, etc. the person with the southern accent was giving to another station. I learned their pickup points in South America and the aerial routes they used to fly into Florida.

I also found out they changed frequencies often during their QSOs and after searching about, I was usually able to pick them up on their new frequency. Later I learned their code words for different frequencies and was able to QSY right along with them.

About a week after my call to the Treasury Department, there was a knock at my door and a very large man showed me his ID and badge and introduced himself as agent Xxxxx with the Treasury Department. He explained that they were interested in the information I gave them and supplied me with a box of blank tapes to record the smugglers QSOs. He also requested that I write a transcript of the tapes.

A day or two later, I received a phone call from another agent in Ohio who was trying to pickup the radio transmissions from South America without any luck. I told him they were transmitting at that very moment and to point his beam South. He informed me he was using a mobile whip on the balcony of a hotel room. I couldn't help thinking a government agency like the Treasury Department should have their own state-of-the-art radio equipment.

This went on for some weeks until my obsession with listening to their "net" started interfering with my family activities. It was hard to turn my rig off for fear I would miss something important. After a few weeks I decided to leave the spying to the professionals.

I felt that I had given the authorities a heads-up on the smuggling operation and that they should take it from there. I fought the temptation to continue monitoring the South American stations and returned to making amateur contacts. I don't know how valuable the information was in shutting down the dope smuggling operation, I can only hope it helped to stop the plane loads of dope into this country.

STAY RADIOACTIVE!

USECA Field Day—From Page 1

Directional Inverted VEE. String three parallel inverted Vees cut for your band across a rope between two sturdy supports. Separate them by .15 wavelength. Feed the middle one with coax. Two end ones are just wire without feedline. Cut these two 5% short. Make two clip lead wires .05 wavelength long. These will clip to one of the end dipoles to make it into the reflector (back of antenna) making the other end the front of the beam. Reverse for opposite direction. This gives you a center fed dipole with a reflector 5% longer (clip leads on) and a director 5% short (no clip leads). This can also be done with relays but is much more complicated. This will give you about 6-7 dbd gain. Best orientation is NE/SW. This will bag the most popular spots and maximize point count. For this antenna to work the ends of the wires must be reachable to switch directions. This can also be done with delta loops or quad loops using shorting stubs to lengthen or shorten. A three element quad will give you about 8-9 dbd gain. Not bad for a bunch of wire. This is power multiplication of 8.

Multi-Sloper. From a suitable metal support, suspend the end of 5 dipoles fed with coax at a 30 degree angle out from the tower, equidistant around the center pole. The center pole will need a switchbox to switch in the live sloper and short out the others. Doug, N8KND is working on these switches. This gives you a low angle of radiation and 4dbd or so. The coax feeds should be ¼ wave electrical length to the switchbox. Make sure to calculate for the velocity factor of the coax. This is suitable for 6-40 meters. For 75 or 80 m it gets pretty tall. 40 meters will require about a 55 foot tower.

Horizontal loop. This is an old favorite of mine. Suspend a bunch of wire sort of in a square and feed with twin lead somewhere convenient. It requires a tuner but it is a low noise receiver and can be either a low or high angle radiator depending on the height above ground. Minimum size is 1 wavelength of wire. More is better and it is NOT critical how much more. Above ¼ wave high it has some gain and a lower angle.

Dipole. Don't dis this old standby. It is a reliable performer, especially if you get it flat topped

up high. It will also work as an inverted vee but not as well.

Beams. Yagi or Quad. Both work well, but require a tower or suitable support and a rotator. Best for 440, 2, 6, 10, 15, 20 meters. Higher the better. Use GOOD quality feedline, especially for VHF and above. If you need one of these for your station, put out the word NOW. Several members may have spares laying around to borrow, but you need to plan NOW!

Verticals. Fair, but usually need to have massive counterpoise to be effective. Low Angle radiator, so on bands like 20m you may be loudest in China, which is useless for this contest. Think Americas. South America is in contest this year but don't expect a big showing yet.

As a final, for HF it is best to have both a low and a high angle radiator on each station. If you have a beam, add a low horizontal loop. Same if you have a vertical.

This only scratches the surface. There are tons of other ideas online. Check out the ARRL web site for starters and go from there.

Good Luck and 73,
Bill N8SA
Steve N8XO
Ray N8UY (ex-KD8CX)

The "Torch" Has Been Passed...

I have been the "official" USECA fox for the last year, and starting with the foxhunt before the February USECA general meeting we will have a new fox—Jim, KC8WXF. Jim has graciously accepted the position as the "wanted man," so please join in the search from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm on Tuesday February 13th before the monthly USECA general meeting.

Remember that you do NOT need to be a USECA member to join in the foxhunt—or any USECA function—and no really specialized equipment is need. During the October 2006 foxhunt the second place searcher, Chuck, N8ZA, had nothing more than a 2-meter HT and a rubber ducky antenna! If you are new to foxhunts and want to gain some experience, you can ride along with one of the other crews. Arrange to meet at the Elks Lodge before the foxhunt starts.

All crews should check in on the USECA repeater on 147.180 before 6:00 pm so that Jim knows how many crews to look for. Everybody, get out there and congratulate KC8WXF for taking on this position, and let's all sign up for his first night as the USECA fox!

Keith, N8EB

[Apologies—This article should have been in last month's *Express*; but was submitted too late. The deadline for articles is the night of our General Meeting.—Ed.]

Meeting Minutes—From Page 5

Swap: Tom, N8ZI reported that he has been getting information into publications for the swap. Bob, KZ8N agreed to co-chair swap again with Tom, N8ZI.

Old Business:

Ed, KD8CXJ reported that May 12th has been chosen to give a presentation on Amateur Radio in the Romeo School District.

New Business:

Tom reported that FYBO was a huge success, and everyone ate, and ate, and ate.

Tom asked that USECA sponsor with the Armada School District to communicate with the ISS. This is a project that will take place in approximately 1½ years from now.

Chuck stated that Pete, AA8GK would chair the Michigan QSO Party on April 21 of this year.

The vote was held on the motion on the floor concerning moving the meeting to the second Monday of the month. Filling out written ballot will do balloting. Joe, N8OZ; Alec, KD8ZIR and Doug, N8KDL counted the ballots during the break. Results will be given after break. Motion passed. Meetings will start in September.

50-50 won by Rich, K8PJQ for \$23.50. Rich kept the \$.50 donated rest back to club.

Tonight's program will be on QSLing given by Dee, N8UZE.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis W8DFG
Acting Recording Secretary

USECA VE Testing

Testing will be EVERY MONDAY (January thru April). Joe, N8OZ will have the CVE duty. Pre-registration is urged. Test Fee is \$14.00. Exact change is required. 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

Cork Board

★New or changed this month.

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

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

Name Badges

WITH THE OFFICIAL USECA LOGO

CONTACT LAURA — (586) 749-4561

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.

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's brand new and costs only \$30! Normal price is close to \$35.

Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248)-431-7769.

★TEN TEC Century 21, Excellent condition. QSK, CW only 10, 15, 20, 40 meter bands. Factory Manual. Analog dial, Built in power supply (120VAC or 12VDC). QRP+ (0 to about 30 watts max output). Included: PTO rebuild kit and instructions. Recently factory aligned. \$100. Dick af8x@arrl.net or (586) 791-3595. Picture on Page 4.

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.

WANTED: Motorola Expo batteries in GWO. Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769.

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.

COMPUTER Monitors 12 14" color computer monitors to give away. They all work and have the power cords. These would be excellent for either a backup or part of a small system. Bill kc8msx@arrl.net

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.

★FOR SALE

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 couple months for any newly licensed ham radio operator who needs a temporary rig!

Heathkit SW7800 – 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; \$200.

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 assay 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.

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.

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 Reciever 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; \$10.

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

Contact Arpad, WY8M at: wym@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

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



MARCH 2007

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
MAR	13	7:30 pm	General Meeting
APR	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	12		Pre-Field Day & Picnic
MAY	18-20		Dayton Hamvention
JUN	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting
JUN	23-24		Field Day 2007

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