



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 24, Number 5, May 2008

USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—April 7, 2008

In attendance:

Tom, N8ZI	President
Alec, NF8X	Vice-President
Ann, KT8F	Recording Secretary
Dennis, W8DFG	Treasurer
*Joe, N8OZ	Membership Secretary
*Walt, WB8E	Board Member
Ray, K8RDJ	Board Member
Ken, N8UO	Board Member
Chuck, N8ZA	Past President
*Absent	



Note: Call signs of Board members are not listed below in the minutes, see above.

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

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

Membership: Joe – absent, but report provided - 134 members with BOD approval of 2 new members.

Treasurer's report provided by Dennis. Motion to accept made by Ann and supported by Alec motion carried.

Web master report provided by Alec – Brad has established a new physical location for the server. He will have better access to the new site. Some visual changes and updates have been made to the web site.

Trustee: Dennis, W8DFG – no report.

Swap: no report. Larry, W8NIC is the swap chairman.

Health and Welfare: no report.

Technical report: no report.

Field Day: no report.

—Continued on Page 4

Eat B 4 U Meet

Come on down for a cheaper than IHOP dinner. For the same small nominal fee, we will be having a Pancake and Sausage dinner, starting at the usual time of 6:00PM

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

Walk America For 2008 Is Now March For Babies

Dennis, W8DFG

Again, it's that time of the year, for the March of Dimes **March for Babies**. The name has changed, but our mission hasn't. For all the new hams and new members in the club, we have been doing this event for the community since 1995. On the day of the walk, which is April 27th, we provide communications for the March of Dimes and the health and welfare for the 1500 walkers who raised \$250,000.00 last year. It's not a busy day, which is good, meaning that all is going well. But one never knows when an ambulance, or any other emergency that may arise. This is our mission for the day.

The route has changed for this year. It has gone from an eight-mile walk, to a six-mile walk and we will only be using the east portion of the park. We will be using the same passes for the park for that we have used in the past years. If you do not have a MOD walk pass, one will have to pay the park entrance fee. Make sure you get a new pass for your car. A pass will not be needed for Saturday for set-up, just mention to the person at the entrance booth you're there for Walk America set-up.

We also will have a Special Events station set up. Those hams that want to test antennas for Field Day come out and set up and try out the new equipment. We secured W8A for the call sign for this Special Events Station. If you want to participate in the Special Event Station, the Walk Committee will be out Saturday morning from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM setting up for the Walk, or come out Sunday morning and set up, we have the call for the weekend.

Brain, KC8DIR will be Net Control this year to organize the day's activity. Please contact him via the repeater, or send him e-mail at kc8dir@comcast.net if you are interested in participating. We have people stationed at the checkpoints, registration area—people have even brought their bikes out to ride the walk route. We have the ability to cover 100% of the walk site with just your HT. Make sure you have your batteries charged. Hot Dogs and accessories will be provided for those who come out and give us a hand.

So come out from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM, or whatever time you can spare, and be Radio Active! If you need any other information, please contact me on the repeater, or at w8dfg@arrl.net —73.

Next Meeting — May 12

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Tom Tincknell/N8ZI (586) 651-7239
Vice President	Alec Beardsley/NF8X (586) 873-8841
Recording Secretary	Ann Manor/KT8F (586) 751-3893
Treasurer	Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Membership Secretary	Joe Kennedy/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Board Member	Walt Gracey/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Board Member	Ray Anderson/K8RDJ (586) 979-4456
Board Member	Ken Riley/N8UO (586) 751-4949
Past President	Chuck Perushek/N8ZA (586) 557-4983

COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison	Bill/N8SA
Awards Manager	Bob/N8ZY (586) 978-1682
Door Prizes	—OPEN—
Editor	Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
Field Day Chair	Bill/N8SA, Steve/N8XO & Ray/N8UY
Health & Welfare	Walt/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Mailers/Sorters	Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
Net Manager	Bob/N8ZY (586) 978-1682
Photographer	Wes/KD8DHS
Program Director	Alec/NF8X (586) 873-8841
Public Relations Officer	Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
Refreshments	Walt/WB8E; & Alec/NF8X
Repeater Trustee	Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Swap Director	Larry, N8NIC (586) 864-4563
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 & Alec (VP)

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
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The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

Yes this is the May edition — but the Walk America information for April is printed in this edition; (better late than never.)

The winds of change keep blowing; and change they did. For the first time EVER, there is no Cork Board. Why? Please tell me.

73 for now.

PRE-FIELD DAY 2008

Date: Saturday, May 10, 2008

Time: 10 AM till? Note: Grill will be up and running about 1 PM – till? So, plan on getting your burgers and hot dogs in the afternoon.

Place: Gladeview-A Picnic Area, Stony Creek Metro Park. (Same as the last two years) — it's the first picnic area on the right after you enter the park.

Once again, it is time for our annual pre-field day picnic at Stony Creek. This is a great day to meet and socialize with your friends, make new friends, play radio, and enjoy a feast.

As always, we encourage you to bring and set up your radio stations and antennas. We have had as many as 8 stations at this event, more than many other clubs have at their actual Field Day.

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The *USECA EXPRESS* is published monthly (except July and August), by the UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC., of Macomb County, Michigan. Club meetings are held on the second Monday of each month (except July and August), 7:30 p.m., local time, at the Elks Club, 179 S. Main (between Church and Robertson), Mt. Clemens, Michigan. *Visitors are always welcome.* Articles for the *EXPRESS* should be submitted to the editor no later than the night of the club meeting for publication in the following month's edition. **The articles within are those of the author and not necessarily endorsed by USECA.** Material contained in the *EXPRESS* may be reprinted provided credit is given to the *USECA EXPRESS* and the author, except material published by permission of a copyright holder. 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.

USECA Guide to Field Day 2008

IT'S APRIL AND warming up outside! By the time you read this, it will be well into May and we will be getting ready for Walt WB8E's larks-in-the-park, Walk America, Pre-Field Day, and other events. This year's Field Day Rules have changed some. Biggest is the GOTA Station: The technician class-only restriction is removed, and can now operate on ANY HF or VHF Field Day band. However, any technician who operated last year is barred from it this year. There are some other changes that you can find at the ARRL's website under the Field Day 2008 link.

Since Field Day always has new participants each year, let's take review some of the basics. The following excerpts are from the ARRL Field Day 2008 Package (*italics are mine*):

During the **fourth full weekend in June**, the eyes of the amateur radio community turn towards the annual Field Day operating event. From its beginning back in the 1930's as an event to test the field preparedness and emergency communications abilities of the burgeoning amateur radio community, Field Day has evolved into the largest on-the-air operation during the year. In 2007, contest logs were submitted by a **record 2,331 clubs**, groups and individuals across the US and Canada to the ARRL Contest Branch. These logs showed participation by 34,800 individuals and over 1.23 million QSOs were reported during the brief 24-hours of the event. *Last year, USECA claimed 12,340 points from 15 stations running QRP (5W or less).*

Field Day is officially an operating event not a contest. The purpose remains today as it did in the beginning: **to demonstrate the communications ability of the amateur radio community in simulated emergency situations.** *USECA does very well because of the hard work and dedication by MANY volunteers.* Groups across the continent use Field Day as a literal "show and tell" exhibition. At sites from the tundra of Alaska to the sandy beaches of Puerto Rico, amateur radio brings together its resources to show officials in government and various agencies what "amateur radio can do."

Many clubs, *like USECA*, use Field Day as the focus of their annual calendar. Many hams that are not otherwise interested in contesting or DXing find themselves meeting various challenges to help their club run a successful Field Day operation. While Field Day may not be a contest, it IS the thrill of the "**non-contest contest**" that brings out the best in thousands of amateurs who under most circumstances choose not to participate in the various sponsored contest.

What makes a good Field Day? Ask that at any hamfest and you will probably receive a different answer from each person you interview. Here are a few basic ideas to keep in mind as you contemplate a Field Day operation.

First, and foremost, is **Field Day should be a fun activity.** *USECA excels at this— just ask any past participant.* Field Day serves as one of the biggest introductory "drawing cards" we offer in trying to expand interest in the hobby. A Field Day that is technical in set-up may well produce a good score, but remember that a Field Day that practices **the "KISS" principle (Keep It Simple, Silly)** is more likely to attract interest and participation than one which is run like a hard-core contest. *USECA's Field Day is held at the Home/Farm of Jim (N8MCD) and his wife, Kathy. The farm is located on Powell Rd., ? mile east of M53 and 30 Mile Rds., near Romeo MI. If you are coming from the west side, take either M-59 East or I-696 East to Van Dyke Rd. (M-53) North. If you're coming from the Thumb (Yale, Capac, Bad Axe, etc.), come south on M-53 to 30-Mile Rd., and go left (east) until you hit Powell. This is a working farm, and farm animals are present- so please be mindful of this. This means that all beverages, alcoholic or not, should be consumed in either plastic or cans. NO GLASS- this can maim or seriously injure them as they graze the field throughout the year.*

The success of Field Day is not determined by finishing first in your category or with "bragging rights" over your cross-town rival. (Well, for USECA it is!) Success is measured by attaining the goals set for you or your group.

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Meeting Minutes—From Page 1**Old Business:**

Club will purchase a Kenwood TM-D 710A for a raffle. 150 tickets will be sold. The tickets will cost \$10.00. The drawing will be held at Field Day.

New Business:

Rob, KD8EMP - the project to build the handi-finders will take place at the May General meeting.

Brad, N8VI – reported on the progress of moving our website. He will soon be done with testing. Many new features including email will be available.

Dennis – audit of the books to be done tonight.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ann and 2nd by Ken, motion carried, meeting adjourned at: 8:04 PM..

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary.

General Meeting —April 14, 2008**In attendance:**

Tom, N8ZI	President
Alec, NF8X	Vice-President
Ann, KT8F	Recording Secretary
Dennis, W8DFG	Treasurer
Joe, N8OZ	Membership Secretary
Walt, WB8E	Board Member
Ray, K8RDJ	Board Member
Ken, N8UO	Board Member
Chuck, N8ZA	Past President

*Absent

53 Members/visitors present.

Meeting called to order by the President at 7:31 PM.

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

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Dennis, W8DFG, and 2nd by Steve, N8XO, motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Dennis, W8DFG. Motion to approve made by Steve, N8XO and 2nd by Jim, WY8I; motion carried.

Membership: Joe, N8OZ - 140 members currently

Webmaster: Brad, N8VI – lot of problems with the current web site location. Brad has found a new site for the server – should be switched over during the next week.

Express: – no report.

Technical report: no report.

Field Day – report by Steve N8XO. 17 stations confirmed at this time. Steve did a rundown on the station chairs. See Dennis, W8DFG for ICE filters.

Swap: Larry, W8NIC – has taken over as chairman and is getting it organized. Volunteers will be needed.

Trustee report: Dennis, W8DFG – no report.

—Continued on Page 9

Pre-Field Day 2008—From Page 2

It is a good opportunity to tweak your station and antenna, get on the air, find any potential problems, check the SWR etc. and make contacts. If you do not have a radio, you should certainly be able to do some operating and gain experience at someone else's station.

Gladeview A is a beautiful spot. It has a big sheltered pavilion, so don't be concerned if the weather is not optimal. Actually, we have had a lot of fun in years past in inclement weather and can tack up Visqueen if needed. Modern, clean restrooms are nearby.

Food will be set out in the afternoon. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided by USECA. They should be ready to start coming off the grills around 1 PM. We request that you bring a pass-a-dish of some sort, so that we will have the usual outstanding and varied feast to enjoy. Keep in mind that we do not have a way to keep hot foods warm. Possibly a warmup could be done on the on the grill, depending on the dish. Condiments, plates/forks etc. will be supplied. Please bring your own beverages.

Lawn chairs are a good idea, and you can also bring other toys such as kites, skates, volleyballs, etc. You do not need to be a member of USECA, or even a ham, to attend. Friends and family are very welcome.

There will be foxhunts (on foot) for fun—Phil, W8IC will bring out a transmitter to be hidden, several hand-held DF set-ups, and show how to use them. It is a lot of fun to trek into the woods...or wherever...(not telling!)—and find the hidden transmitter!

We are hoping for a nice turnout and hope to see YOU there!

73—Ann, KT8F and crew.

1st Annual USECA Show And Tell

Have a new ham toy you want to show off? Make a new project you want to share with the club? Find a new way to use something you already had? Bring it to the USECA Show and Tell!

For the May general meeting we are inviting all club members to bring in something to show to everyone else. Anything related to the club or hobby is welcome. Please do not bring things to sell, this is not a swap! Show and Tell will start right after the business portion of the meeting.

—Submitted by Alec, NF8X

Repeater Usage Part 2

We're Doing Pretty Good!

Keith, N8EB

USECA as a group has been pushing to get new people interested in ham radio to get their tech license – you can tell by how many “new guys” you hear on the repeater in the last 6 months. The “old guys” have really done a great job to get them involved and move forward in the hobby as shown by how many have already upgraded to general and put together amazing stations! Good job to all, new and old!

With so many new guys, maybe it's time to go over repeater etiquette. I wrote about this a year or so ago, so I will not try to re-invent the wheel!

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 – sometimes not in the kindest of terms.

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 or 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 reset. 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 might 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 3 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 3 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!

As I said, I feel I am an “expert” on repeater etiquette only because I have broken most of the rules! Let's all make sure that we pass on good repeater habits to all the new guys that have joined us in the last year!

Garden City Amateur Radio Club
Mark Your Calendars!!!!!!
 Date: Sunday, June 8, 2008
 Time: 8:00—2:00

Swap In The Park!

Come out to Garden City Park located at the corner of Cherry Hill and Merriman Roads in Garden City for our first ever **SWAP IN THE PARK** at the main picnic pavilion. We will have food and drinks for a nominal fee and you will be able to sell your wares either by purchasing one of the few picnic tables available in the pavilion for \$10 or you can sell from your trunk for free if you wish. Come one come all for fun in the park!

Highlights:

- Free Trunk Sales
- Free Admission
- Bring a picnic basket
- Bring the family
- Large Playground
- Walking Paths
- Rolling Tapes

Find us on the Web at www.gcarc.net

DIY Gen-set – Part II

Steve, N8XO

LAST YEAR, I wrote about my DIY Gen-Set, and did a show slideshow about it. It is now complete, having seen use several times last year: Field Day, a real-life power-outage, and several public events where no AC power was available. While the objective was to make a gen-set to meet my needs, several things were learned along the way: Unless you already have some of the big things on-hand, it might end up costing as much as, or more than a store-bought commercial unit; be prepared for pitfalls along the way; and keep the faith. When several set-backs were experienced (like two voltage regulators fried, or not finding a specific part), giving up seemed attractive.

Following up the Mar 2007 Express article on the DIY Gen-set, it really started to come together. Space-claim issues were mostly resolved and it was now time for actual construction. Bob W8RGW helped with fabricating mounting plates for the engine, alternator, inverter, and batteries, drive adapter plates, and control panel. Many trips to Home Depot and Lowe's (and a few specialty shops) later, the project was finished. Powering the inverter was the first real system test. It performed well, sustaining loads up to 1500W before the two 40Ah deep-cycle gel-cells dipped below 11.5V. These were later augmented with 90Ah of deep-cycle gel-cell from the Battery Warehouse, and a 110Ah 6T starting battery from FD Co-chair Bill N8SA. I now had 170Ah of reserve power, and up to 1.1kA (that's *kilo*-amps) of starting power! (Insert Tim Allen grunt here)

The main control panel ended up being sort of low-tech, but it works perfectly. The AC section has the inverter's display panel and two 15A hospital-grade GFCIs. The engine control/alternator section has an idiot light and two switches: Alternator field and engine start/stop/run. The DC section has two big $\frac{3}{8}$ battery posts and wing-nuts. 5-way binding posts and cigar lighter are still under consideration.

First test was AC Section: The inverter's remote-mounted control panel displays vital system info (like battery voltage, current draw, and AC power out). Next came the low-voltage DC section. Idling the 6HP engine at 1200rpm, various loads were tested, up the 1.8kW max. The alternator put out 70A max at engine idle, stalling the engine above that. Past 1kW, engine speed was varied, up 3600rpm, stalling again when a 2kW load was tested. The 7" drive pulley gave nearly 3:1 step-up ratio, spinning the alternator over 10,500rpm at wide-open throttle. UGH! Upping the alternator pulley from 2.38" to 3.5" reduced the ratio to 2:1, giving better results. Max alternator speed was reduced to 7500rpm, eliminating the hi-load stalling. The engine's oversized muffler makes it relatively quiet. The alternator is the noisiest component. The only noise on battery power is the Inverter's cooling fan.

Since the engine/alternator section didn't see much FD activity, the real test came when it was used for several neighborhood events needing quiet power. It successfully powered a 500W AV system for 4 hours. Battery voltage never fell below 12.2V. The alternator's regulator failed after about 10hrs causing an inverter high-DC voltage shutdown. Fifteen dollars and a trip to Knapp's Auto Electric, and it was back in business.

During our power outage, it ran two refrigerators, a home-theater system (TV, DVD, AV Receiver), 3–60 W lamps, and home computer system (11.5A total draw), for 3 hours, using only $\frac{3}{4}$ gallon. Maintenance included two oil changes, maintaining tire pressure, and general care for the unit. Repair included replacing the voltage regulator, a rotor (the fan had come loose and seized on the shaft), and the alternator pulley upgrade.

It will be at the 40DIG station this year, so stop by if you want to see it. I look forward to using it as more opportunities present themselves. As promised, here are a few pics of the finished Gen-set.

—Continued on Page 8

Armada students to contact astronauts on International Space Station Meeting to be broadcast locally on the Internet

By Matt Fahr
Armada Times Reporter

Students in the Armada School district will be holding an unusual meeting in May. In cooperation with NASA and ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) local students will be able to ask questions to astronauts on the International Space Station as it passes over Armada, 240 miles above the Earth. The day of the radio contact has yet to be determined during the first week of May.

Sponsored by USECA (Utica Shelby Emergency Communication Association) students from the Macomb International Academy of Arts and Sciences, Armada elementary, middle school and high school will be chosen to pose questions.

Students wishing to participate will submit their questions and the three best queries from each school will be chosen.

The process began last spring with a proposal from local amateur radio operator Tom Tincknell to middle school media specialist Geri Asaro.

"Tom approached me with the idea and said it may take years to happen, but we submitted the lengthy application last year. They let us know at the beginning of March that we had been accepted and are now in the process of getting the questions together," Asaro explained. "We are still hammering out the details."

Tincknell, a resident of Richmond, pitched the idea after making contact with astronaut Bill McArthur during mission Expedition 12 two years ago. "It was great for me to talk with them and I thought that the kids would get a kick out of it," said the amateur radioman. He said

that he currently has about 70% of the equipment needed for the meeting. Some of what remains to be used will be built from scratch and some will be purchased.

Originally only students at the middle school were to be involved, but Asaro wanted it to be an event "for all Armada schools".

"I would like to see the smiles on the kids faces when it all happens," Tincknell said of the reward he will get from it.

"It is going to be two months of sheer chaos to pull it all together for 10 or fifteen minutes with the station." The station itself turns 10 years old this year. Five different space agencies and 16 countries have been involved with the project at a cost of 53 billion dollars to the United State since the inception of the project in 1993.

Three students from each school will now be involved with the meeting, which will take place during a 10 to 15 window of time that will be streamed live through the internet and recipients overseas. WJBK Fox 2 News has already signed on to carry the meeting live on their website.

"We are really excited about this. We are going to pull out all the stops," Asaro said of the event.

"Hopefully this will be something that they will never forget," Tincknell said.

[Reprint permission granted April 9, 2008]

Meeting Minutes—From Page 4

Health & Welfare: Walt, WB8E – no report. Best wishes to Pete, KC8WWE who is recovering from an accident.

Old Business:

Rob, KD8ENP – the handi-finder kits will be here soon.

ISS: date TBD.

Raffle: The plan is to purchase a TMD 710A Kenwood's new dual band radio for our upcoming raffle. Tickets will be \$10.00. 150 tickets will be sold, drawing to be held at Field Day.

Dennis, W8DFG discussed the March of Dimes Walk America walk-a-thon, to be held on April 27, 2008. The walk will be 6 miles this year instead of 8. Volunteers should arrive at 7 AM. The special event station W8A will be also held that day. Bring your antennas to try out.

Bob, N8ZY has ordered 20 heavy-duty antenna clamps, cost \$12.50. See Bob to place an order.

New Business:

Ann, KT8F: announced the plans for Pre Field Day. See article elsewhere in this issue for details.

Skywarn classes: Tom, KD8GZE announced that a class will be held on Saturday, May 10 at Freedom Hill Park on Metro Parkway from 10 AM to 12 Noon.

The business portion of the meeting concluded at 8:20 PM.

Thanks to Walt, WB8E and crew for providing tonight's eat-before-you-meet dinner. Ken, KW8Z's wife provided a delicious potato salad, thanks.

Tonight's program provided by Larry Barker, KD8CRA on cadaver dogs. ...

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary

Time for Larks in the Park

Chuck, N8ZA

Hello all! The larks in the park have started, thanks to Alec, NF8X and Larry, W8NIC. On Saturday April 4th at Metro Beach Larry and Alec put up two stations. Attendance was good since the lark in the park was decided Friday night on the 10 meter net. Those who attended were N8FY, Kim; KD8HTU, Marty; KD8CIA, Jeff; KD8HIZ, Andy; N8ZA, Chuck and Eric, KD8GVT.

The weather was nice, the sun was shining, temps were near 60 degrees but the breeze off the lake made

things a little cool. We lasted about 3 hours—we made a few contacts: Hawaii, Poland, and Wisconsin to name a few so conditions were good.

The larks in the parks have officially started so its time to take a look at your gear and get ready for the next lark—see you all soon—73.



DIY Gen-set—From Page 6



Pic. 1 – Finished gen-set



Fig. 2 – Hi-Tech Control Panel

I will post some more pics to the USECA Website when I can find the time, and plan on doing a short slideshow/video at an upcoming general membership meeting.

73.

USECA NET POINTS										
CALL	NAME	VHF Pts	HF Pts	TOTAL		CALL	NAME	VHF Pts	HF Pts	TOTAL
N8ZA	CHUCK	25	131	156		N8CR	DENNIS	8	0	8
N8ZY	BOB	13	140	153		K8PJQ	RICH	8	0	8
N8YBY	LEONARD	7	63	70		WB8FUI	PHIL	7	0	7
W8OMC	KEN	2	67	69		AA8OZ	PAUL	7	0	7
W1IK	JIM	23	44	67		N8KA	JOE	7	0	7
N8ESM	PAT	0	56	56		N8COQ	KEN	1	6	7
W8NIC	LARRY	13	40	53		WB8OAF	BILL	7	0	7
N8EB	KEITH	25	22	47		KD8GVT	ERIC	1	6	7
KD8CXJ	ED	27	16	43		KD8DHS	WES	5	2	7
W8AOQ	STEVE	0	40	40		N8OZ	JOE	5	2	7
KD8CFU	DAVE	11	28	39		K7SDF	DON	6	0	6
WY8M	ARPAD	5	34	39		N8UY	RAY	6	0	6
N8ZI	TOM	16	22	38		KD8ENP	ROB	4	2	6
W8SOX	LARRY	10	18	28		N8HTV	JOHN	5	0	5
N8UO	KEN	5	22	27		KC8THE	BOB	5	0	5
W8AJA	WAYNE	0	26	26		KC8REX	BERNARD	3	2	5
N8AE	CARL	1	24	25		W8BHF	BOB	5	0	5
N8UJ	CHUCK	9	16	25		KD8HQV	ALEN	1	4	5
KD8Hnk	PHIL	12	12	24		N8QOQ	TOM	5	0	5
KC8NQA	MIKE	1	22	23		WY8I	JIM	5	0	5
K8RDJ	RAY	5	18	23		N5WCS	MIKE	4	0	4
KG4JTC	DAVE	10	12	22		N8ODY	STEVE	0	4	4
KW8Z	KEN	21	0	21		KC8WXF	JIM	4	0	4
W8DFG	DENNIS	15	6	21		WA8BIJ	VINCE	0	4	4
KC8LUM	MIKE	0	20	20		AC8AK	GENE	0	4	4
KD8CIA	JEFF	1	18	19		N8KLX	JERRY	0	4	4
W8RIT	DAVE	1	16	17		KC8ZRY	RANDY	0	4	4
KD8GZE	TOM	15	2	17		K8RFP	RON	4	0	4
NF8X	ALEC	0	16	16		KD8HSM	JUNE	3	0	3
KA2IBE	JOHN	10	4	14		WB8F	DON	1	2	3
KD8HIZ	ANDY	10	4	14		K8QLM	JANICE	3	0	3
KD8HTU	MARTY	7	6	13		KD8GVO	PHIL	3	0	3
KV8Z	CHRIS	13	0	13		N8RUE	EDDIE	3	0	3
N8ZZE	JOHN	7	6	13						
KI8JN	PHIL	0	12	12						
W1NB	SCOTT	0	12	12						
N8ZBA	DAN	11	0	11						
W8TRC	TOM	11	0	11						
WB8E	WALT	9	0	9						
W8WTH	RICHARD	9	0	9						
KC8CPT	DON	9	0	9						
AA8GK	PETE	9	0	9						
						Submitted by Bob, N8ZY				

Display Problem

Leonard, N8YBY

My back up HF rig has had one back lighting lamp burned out since I purchased it used. A couple of months ago the other 3 lamps went out. To replace the lamps took better tools & expertise than I have.

Jim, W1IK replaced the lamps and discovered a problem with the display. The last 3 digits, when in the split mode, did not display properly. I was not aware of this problem since the backlighting bulb was burned out from the start. Finding a replacement LCD display for this rig (ICOM 737) may not be an easy task.

For a quick fix, I purchased a CI-V interface cable, downloaded and installed the ham radio deluxe program on my PC. I now am able to read the frequency and can control various features on the radio via my PC. I would like to thank Jim, W1IK for the great job he did and the fast turn around time. Jim also replaced the 12 volt lamps with 18 volt lamps—the display is not as bright but the lamps should outlast the radio



USECA Guide—From Page 3

Groups for many years have used alternative power sources rather than commercial or petroleum-derivative powered generators to run part of their Field Day operation. To encourage this, an easy **100-point bonus** may be earned **by making at least five QSOs using a "natural power" source**. Solar, wind, water-power, methane or grain alcohol all qualify here. (Sorry, dry cell batteries are a non-starter.) *A new Category, Bio-Fuel, will allow the use of a diesel-powered gen-set, as long as the Fuel is 100% bio-fuel, and not a petro-bio blend. Sources of bio-fuels include used restaurant grease, vegetable oil, and other organically-based fuels. I heard once that someone wanted to use a gas-powered generator fueled by moonshine or other non-petroleum alcohol, and I guess this would be alright, as long as they don't gum up the carburetor or burn out the motor!*

OK, so where do we go from here? We're glad you asked. WE NEED YOU! You might be needed to man the kitchen during a meal, to help set up tents, or solder a connector to a feedline for a newer ham. Everyone of you has skills we can use. With those tests you have taken you have had to prove that. Now, we can improve each other. You can learn more in one Field Day weekend than in a year of rag chewing on the air! So, when I ask you to step forward and sign up for a station or to help at Field Day, you will be ready to jump in.

So, remember these dates: 27-29 JUN 2008- this is Field Day weekend. We start setting up tents, stations, etc., after 1400hrs (2:00pm) local on Friday, 27 JUN. Before that, we work on Kitchen set up. That is MOST IMPORTANT! We all love to eat and Dennis & crew always rise to the challenge and prepare enough food for over 1000 meals the entire weekend. They will be looking for a little muscle to set up tents, grills, etc on Friday. Not a bad trade off for the great food we enjoy every year.

The contest starts at 1400hrs (2:00 pm) Saturday and runs 24 straight hours until 1400hrs Sunday. We stop for nothing. Again this year, we will be running 5W QRP transmitter power, powered by batteries. If you need batteries for your station, Bill, N8SA will have some available as always. Make sure you contact him ahead of time to arrange you to get what you need. Jerry N8KLX has been updating his always useful software for computer logging and Bill and myself will be testing it before FD to work out any bugs there might be. There are other software packages out there, but Jerry's is simple to use and robust. We will be using all three modes: SSB, DIGI, and CW. Each SSB contacts make 5 points, while DIGI & CW score 10 points. As always, we need CW and DIGI operators for high scores. With QRP power, antennas become the most important part of your station. Plan on using both high- and low-angle radiators for most bands. Obviously, this is not practical for 80- & 160M, but for rest of HF, it's great to be able to switch quickly between antennas. Horizontal and vertical antennae of some type usually work well. Beams also work great. Regardless, a second antenna is always good idea, if for no other reason than preparing for a visit from Murphy, when you least expect it. Have backups for everything that can fail; rig, computer, battery, antenna, interface, Hawaiian shirt, etc.

I have sent the station chair list to Brad N8VI to be posted on the USECA website and will update it periodically. You can sign up for a station, a chair, or just to help by E-mailing me at: N8XO@aol.com Also, please ask any of us questions on any forum, repeater, phone, or E-mail.

As your Field Day Chairs, Bill, Ray, & I are looking forward to seeing everyone have a fun, safe, and successful Field Day this year.

73, The USECA Field Day 2008 Junta:

Steve, N8XO – N8XO@aol.com ; Bill, N8SA – N8SA@arrl.net; Ray, N8UY – KD8CXY@sbcglobal.net

USECA APPLICATION



Rev. 3/08

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

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

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

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

Annual Membership Dues: Regular: \$20 — Family: \$30 — Mail Printed Newsletter, ADD \$10.00

New Member applications should be mailed to P.O. Box address below.

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.USECAARC.COM

Local HF Nets

DAY	TIME	CLUB/DESCRIPTION	FREQ.
MON	7:30 pm	LCARC/15 Meter CW	21.165
MON	9:00 pm	LCARC/15 Meter Phone USB	21.395
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

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	KD8CXJ	W1IK
2	N8ZA	N8EB
3	KW8Z	N8ZI
4	WB8E	-OPEN-
5*	KT8F	-OPEN-

*If applicable

Updated 12/07

**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!

USECA

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL



MAY 2008

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
MAY	10		Pre-Field Day & Picnic
MAY	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	16-18		Dayton Hamvention
MAY	19	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
JUN	9	7:30 pm	General Meeting & Fox Hunt
JUN	16	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
JUN	28-29		Field Day 2008

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