



# USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 26, Number 5, May 2010

## USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—April, 2010

### In attendance:

*Larry, W8SOX	President
Dan, N8ZBA	Vice-President
Rob, NY8W	Recording Secretary
Dennis, W8DFG	Treasurer
Ray, K8RDJ	Membership Secretary
*Walt, WB8E	Board Member
Larry, W8NIC	Board Member
Chuck, N8ZA	Board Member
Bill, N8SA	Past President
*Absent	

NOTE: Board members' names are not included in the minutes as they are listed above.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by N8ZBA Dan

Correspondence: Cadillac ARC Swap is Saturday, May 1st at 8:00 AM. The location is Cadillac Junior High School. Admission is \$5.00

Dennis offered a motion to accept the March board meeting minutes as printed in the Express. Larry seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurers' report was read by Dennis

Rob moved that we accept the treasurer's report. Chuck seconded and the motion carried.

Ray reported that as of tonight's meeting we have 152 paid members.

Dennis gave a trustee's report. Chuck volunteered to head up the interference committee.

Swap report from KD8CIA Jeff. Everything is on track, we need to notify the ARRL so we can be listed.

### Old Business:

For our radio raffle, we need someone who is going to Dayton to pick up a Yaesu FT-857D.

### New Business:

Dennis mentioned that we should sponsor a plaque for the Michigan QSO party. The cost is \$65.00. Dennis offered a motion that we approve the cost. Bill seconded and the motion carried.

Larry moved we change the time of our board meetings from 7:30 pm, Dennis seconded. The motion carried.

—Continued on Page 6

## USECA Field Day 2010 June 25-27

**THINK FIELD DAY!** That will be the topic in May at the membership meeting. There are a few open stations still. If you are thinking of chairing one let me know—after consulting the USECA site under "EVENTS" check for openings. It is all color-coded. 'Field Day this' and 'Field Day that' is going to be the chant on the repeater for weeks now. Get used to it. Embrace it. Love it. Get involved in it!

I will be giving a USB drive to station chairs. It will include all of the stuff you need to be successful, at least as much as I can motivate you to act anyway!

Last year we had a distinct shortage of operators at almost all stations, especially the CW ones, which are the big guns for points. If you love doing CW come on out!

Don't short the phone and digital stations either, which are becoming a bigger part of point totals as they become more popular. If you want to learn anything about ham radio, you can learn more in one weekend doing Field Day than years of normal experience.

—Continued on Page 3

# GET INVOLVED!

Next Meeting — May 10th

# CLUB DIRECTORY

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Larry Stocking/W8SOX (586) 294-7718
Vice President	Dan Maliniak/N8ZBA (586) 596-3195
Recording Secretary	Rob Lifton/NY8W (248) 797-2264
Treasurer	Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Membership Secretary	Ray Anderson/K8RDJ (586) 979-4456
Board Member	Walt Gracey/WB8E (586) 596-9547
Board Member	Larry Logarta/W8NIC
Board Member	Chuck Perushek/N8ZA (586) 557-4983
Past President	Bill Chesney/N8SA (586) 468-0106

## 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	Rob/NY8W (248) 816-2222
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Mailers/Sorters	Ann/KT8F & Crew
Net Manager	Bob/N8ZY (586) 978-1682
Photographer	Wes/KD8DHS
Program Director	-OPEN-
Public Relations Officer	Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187
Refreshments	Walt/WB8E; & Alec/NF8X
Repeater Trustee	Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126
Swap Director	Jeff/KD8CIA
Technical Director	Jim/W1IK (586) 771-4135
Technicians	KA8D; WA8GQL; W8RO; AD8S; N8SA; W1SKU;
VE Testing	Alec/NF8X (586) 873-8841
Webmaster	Bob/N8ZY (586) 978-1682

## CONTROL OPERATORS (\*Phone Number Above)

Jim/WY8I	Rob/NY8W*	Chuck/N8ZA*
Jim/W1IK*	Alec/NF8X*	Dan/N8ZBA
Dennis/W8DFG*		

## PROGRAMMERS

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

## Still Going

*Joe, K8OEF*

The editorial staff has 2 FYI's this month:

1. The Net Points as printed in the *Express*, is edited to round off the points that will fit on one page; therefore, this month, it is printed with those with 3 or more points.

2. Where is the Cork Board? Did you ask? Well, truth be known, there is nothing to post. If you want a posting, we'll bring back the Cork Board; and remember, it is for USECA members only. You shouldn't think our Cork Board is a "local thing," because some time ago, I had a posting and a ham in California (who saw it via our web page) made a purchase from me.

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 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.

## USECA VE Testing

Testing will be the THIRD Monday of the month from September thru June. Alec, NF8X, 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 Field Day 2010—From Page 1**

Our FD site is one of the best in the country, with food 24 hours, custom logging software that this year will be networked, lots of help, a wonderful place to set up (N8MCD's farm), and a bunch of other advantages. This club is rich in very qualified and seasoned operators who can Elmer newer hams. Don't be afraid to jump in. You will get lots of help if you even hint you want it. Also according to Pete, AA8GK due to the wonderful copying abilities of Ham Radio Deluxe software, non-or less seasoned CW ops can work just fine and so if you are computer literate and have a yearning to help out you can be useful to CW stations too. And EVERYONE needs loggers.

Another thing we are always short of is suitable shelters. If you have a travel trailer, bring it out and camp for weekend and let a station use it. That is WAY better than getting wet or having to shut down due to inclement weather. Even if you don't operate or do anything else we can use your help in some way. Call me if you have anything you would make available, Shelters (trailers, motor homes), beams, towers, generators (usable to power creature comforts like A/C, heat, fans, etc. Roughing it in a tent is not for all of us anymore.

OK, enough hype. Not really, but I had to do that! As most of you know, your veteran Field Day "dictators" Steve, N8XO and Bill, N8SA (who cares!) are gearing up for the Big Day and you should be too. Now, while the weather is favorable—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. Join a "Lark in the Park" to test antennas, supports, digital interfaces in the field, anything you need to get ready for FD. Pre-FD will be held at Metro Beach on June 6. Location in the park will be at the jet ski ramp.

Multi-Sloper. From a suitable metal support, suspend the end of 5 dipoles fed with coax at a 30 degree angle 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  $\frac{1}{4}$  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  $\frac{1}{4}$  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. The higher you get it 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 lying 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.

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. 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



### Meetup Group

I have setup a Meetup group for amateur radio in SE Michigan. Meetup is "To get people on the Internet off the Internet". It's for face to face meetings and you can setup any group you want.

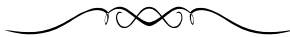
We have found with other Meetup groups is that it brings new people to meetings. Also, when you RSVP for a meetup event it can be put on your Facebook profile.

To join the group, visit here:  
<http://www.meetup.com/Amateur-Radio-SE-Michigan/>

Use your first and last name (please) and your call sign as a title.

Events such as club meetings, Lark in the Park, field days, Hamfests, VE testing will be put on the calendar. You can set the announcements up for a "digest version" to reduce the volume of emails.

Cheers,  
Bruce Freeburger  
KD8MFR



### News of the Weird

*Submitted by Chuck, N8ZA*

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Prosecutors say a Utah man tried to hire a hit man to kill witnesses in a fraud case against him by dictating a letter from jail by Morse code.

The disclosure came Tuesday as federal Magistrate Paul Warner rejected Jeffrey Mowen's request to be freed pending trial. Warner ruled that Mowen was not only a flight risk but a dangerous man.

He also ruled against Mowen's effort to stop U.S. marshals from selling a collection of around 200 cars to pay back investors. Mowen was given seven days to object to auction prices.

The 47-year-old Mowen was arrested in April in Panama on charges of running a multimillion-dollar Ponzi scheme, then indicted in October on additional charges. Prosecutors say he used jail phones to try to dictate a plot by Morse code.

N8ZA says, see it's never too late to learn Morse code. HI HI

### First Lark in the Park of 2010

*Submitted by Bruce, KD8MFR*





**USECA NET POINTS**

CALL	NAME	VHF Points	HF Points	TOTAL POINTS	CALL	NAME	VHF Points	HF Points	TOTAL POINTS
N8ZA	CHUCK	44	123	167	AA8GK	PETE	7	2	9
N8ZY	BOB	14	122	136	AA8OZ	PAUL	7	2	9
N8YBY	LEONARD	65	36	101	KD8MOO	GARY	9	0	9
NY5Q	TOM	19	60	79	W4WZR	BOB	0	8	8
N8SOB	SHAUN	33	45	78	W8OMC	KEN	0	8	8
K8RDJ	RAY	27	48	75	WB8OAF	BILL	6	2	8
AK8S	ALAN	25	46	71	KC8DRK	TEMBEKILE	1	6	7
N8ZBA	DAN	25	37	62	KC8SZS	STEVE	7	0	7
WB8E	WALT	14	48	62	KD8LZM	DAVID	5	2	7
WY8I	JIM	26	34	60	N8UO	KEN	5	2	7
W8NIC	LARRY	17	30	47	W8TRC	TOM	3	4	7
KD8CXJ	ED	41	4	45	WD8IFL	DAVE	5	2	7
KD8HIZ	ANDY	23	18	41	K8DXX	BILL	4	2	6
WB8F	DON	38	2	40	K8RFP	RON	4	2	6
N8AE	CARL	3	36	39	KC8NQA	MIKE	4	2	6
W18C	DAVE	0	38	38	K18JN	PHIL	6	0	6
KD8JDC	RYAN	10	27	37	N8FGB	RICH	0	6	6
W8SOX	LARRY	20	16	36	NY8W	ROB	4	2	6
KC8ZRY	RANDY	17	14	31	WB8YJJ	BILL	0	6	6
W11K	JIM	19	12	31	KC8LUM	MIKE	1	4	5
K9DLW	DENNIS	8	22	30	KD8BOW	BRIAN	3	2	5
KB3PTA	JAMES	0	28	28	KD8HTG	JD	1	4	5
W8AOQ	STEVE	0	28	28	KD8IUO	RUSS	1	4	5
KC8UHK	RANDY	10	16	26	N8KAN	JOHN	3	2	5
N8CR	DENNIS	7	18	25	N8UJ	CHUCK	3	2	5
N8LD	DENNIS	21	4	25	N8ZZE	JOHN	3	2	5
KA8POZ	SHAWN	16	8	24	VE3IJX	ALLAN	5	0	5
KA2IBE	JOHN	15	8	23	K4ZDH	RILEY	0	4	4
KC8C	TONY	7	16	23	KA7AWK	SCOTT	4	0	4
KW8Z	KEN	11	12	23	KA8DYD	PAUL	2	2	4
KC8REX	BERNARD	1	20	21	KA8LGI	DARRELL	4	0	4
KD8CFU	DAVE	10	8	18	KC8CPT	DON	4	0	4
KD8CIA	JEFF	5	12	17	KC8CTZ	BOB	0	4	4
KD8MFR	BRUCE	14	2	16	KG4JTC	DAVE	4	0	4
KV8W	JIM	0	16	16	N9QGU	BOB	2	2	4
N8LK	LONNIE	6	8	14	WA8BIJ	VINCE	0	4	4
W0FLH	SMITTY	0	14	14	WB8FUI	PHIL	2	2	4
KD8GVO	PHIL	0	12	12	WB8ITB	FRED	4	0	4
KD8HTU	MARTY	10	2	12	K8QLM	JANICE	3	0	3
KV8Z	CHRIS	9	2	11	KD8GVT	ERIC	3	0	3
N5WCS	MIKE	11	0	11	W8DFG	DENNIS	3	0	3
N8HTV	JOHN	5	6	11	WJ8R	DAVE	1	2	3
N8KA	JOE	7	4	11					
W8RIT	DAVE	1	10	11					
K8DJE	JONESY	4	6	10					
KW8J	LEO	2	8	10					

—Submitted by Bob, N8ZY

Meeting Minutes—From Page 1

At this time Rob made a motion to adjourn and Bill seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Lifton, NY8W  
Recording Secretary



General Meeting — April, 2010

In attendance:

- \*Larry, W8SOX            President
- Dan, N8ZBA              Vice-President
- Rob, NY8W                Recording Secretary
- Dennis, W8DFG          Treasurer
- Ray, K8RDJ               Membership Secretary
- Walt, WB8E               Board Member
- Larry, W8NIC             Board Member
- Chuck, N8ZA             Board Member
- Bill, N8SA                Past President

\*Absent

NOTE: Board members' names are not included in the minutes as they are listed above.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Dan (acting president).

The Kitchen staff was applauded for another fine "Eat Before You Meet."

New licensees and upgrades were recognized.

The microphone was passed around and the attendees all introduced themselves.

Correspondence: Cadillac ARC Swap is Saturday, May 1st at 8:00 AM. The location is Cadillac Junior High School. Admission is \$5.00.

N8XO Steve offered a motion to accept the March general meeting as printed in the Express. KC8REX Bernard seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurers' report was read by Dennis.

N8RUE Eddie moved that we accept the treasurer's report. N8YJI Dina seconded and the motion carried.

Ray reported that as of tonight's meeting we have 154 paid members.

Tech director's report given by Jim W1IK:

ARRL Liaison given by Bill. We need your letters to state reps and state senators to get a Michigan PRB-1 law which will allow a ninety foot tower in most cases.

There is also a bill pending in the US senate and US House of Representatives. This bill will direct the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a 6-month study regarding Amateur Radio's use in emergency communications as well as recommendations to congress (maybe even a federal PRB-1 statute).

Bill discussed the upcoming Field Day. Please attend. Everyone can contribute in some way. Stations covered

were mentioned as well as those that still need to be covered. Also, remember to bring laptops.

Inter club liaison report read by Jim K8LFE:

L'Anse Creuse ARC's next meeting is on April 21. They will hold a VE testing session on May 13th at 7pm at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library's main branch located at 40900 Romeo Plank, Clinton Twp. Contact Dee at 248-891-8145 for further information.

GMARC's next meeting is on April 20th. They will be holding a show and tell with homebrew projects.

Old Business:

April 25th is the annual March for Babies at Metro Beach. The event begins at 8:00 am and concludes at noon. Anyone who wants to help, bring your HT and be sure batteries are charged. Our special event station will operate under the club call, K8UO. N8EB Keith will serve as NCO for this special event station.

Dennis informed us that the Elks are going to charge us \$100.00 per month starting in April. This money covers the Board and General meetings as well as our VE test sessions. We will not have to pay anything for July and August. This expenditure was approved at the March General Meeting.

New Business:

KW8J Leo discussed pre-field day. It takes place on June 6th at metro beach. We have the pavilion by the jet ski launch.

Dennis moved we approve \$700 to purchase a Yaesu FT-857D at Dayton, for our radio raffle. The raffle will be held at our Swap in the fall. Seconded by WD8IFL Dave.

Dan announced that this weekend will be the Michigan QSO Party.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Following a short break, we had a presentation on hospital nets and their role in emergency communications.

We had 46 members and guests signed in.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Lifton, NY8W  
Recording Secretary



**The following new licenses and upgrades were earned at the March 8th VE test session.**

Renay Siebenschuh, KD8NNC, New Technician  
Gary Humphries, KD8MOO, Upgrade General

**The following new licenses and upgrades were earned at the March 15th VE test session.**

Robert Freeburger, KD8MFR, Upgrade General  
-- Alec, NF8X, CVE

# USECA APPLICATION



Rev. 6/08

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 must be mailed to P.O. Box address below.

Please make check payable to: **USECA** — Address: **P.O. Box 46331, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046**

All mailed-in applications to the P.O. Box must include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

*(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/Tech Sup.	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	8:00 pm	Digital	145.550
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
SAT	11:45 pm	Hoot Owl	147.180

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
TUE	6:00 pm	USECA/75 Meter Phone LSB	3.830
WED	7:00 pm	USECA/6 Meter Phone USB	50.140
THU	7:30 pm	LCARC/10 Meter Phone USB	28.435
THU	9:00 pm	USECA/15 Meter CW	21.140
FRI	9:00 pm	USECA/80 Meter CW	3.570
FRI	10:00 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**	FRI. 11:45 PM
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
1	KD8CXJ	W1IK	KD8CXJ
2	N8ZA	N8ZBA	KD8CXJ
3	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	KD8CXJ
4	WB8E	KD8JNS	KD8CXJ
5*	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	KD8CXJ

\*If applicable

Updated 1/10

\*\*Traders/Tech Support

NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement or contact Chuck, N8ZA (586) 557-4983—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 2010**

## *"The Happenin' Club"*

### **Club Activities**

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
MAY	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting
MAY	14-16		Dayton Hamvention
MAY	17	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
JUN	6		Pre-Field Day
JUN	14	7:30 pm	General Meeting & Fox Hunt
JUN	21	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
JUN	26-27		Field Day 2010

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