



USECA EXPRESS



Awarded as "EXCELLENT" and "SUPERIOR"

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC. Volume 13, Number 9, November 1997

☹ A REPEATER DIES ☹

MOBILE CW

Ken, KF8RG

HOW MANY OF YOU have tried mobile CW? (I don't mean the kind where you park the car to transceive.) If you haven't, you're missin' out on a real thrill! Many stations contacted this way can't believe you're actually driving simultaneously, but it's really not all that hard to do if you hone your CW skills a bit. How your "fist" sounds on the air though, is an altogether different matter, and has a lot to do with how you set up your mobile station's key/keyer. Below are the ideas of several of USECA's own "Mobile CW" operators.

Phil (W8IC) uses a straight key in his full-size Van—he had enough room to mount a small homemade desk upon which his key and VHF/HF stations are temporarily mounted when he's mobile. Everything is at his fingertips, making mobile operation safe, easy, and not too much different than operating at home.

Floyd (W8RO) has been known to take along his Collins rig when on long trips and also enjoys CW mobile—he's got a rather unique iambic key, the Ti-Knee Keyer, designed by Boyd Mason (NE8KE) of Coopersville, MI. It's made of solid brass with berillium contacts (requires only a feather touch!) and is held in place, just above your knee, with a velcro strap. It looks like a small brass bar about 6 inches long and bears little resemblance to any key most of us have seen. A similar key was featured in QST's "New Products" section several months ago.

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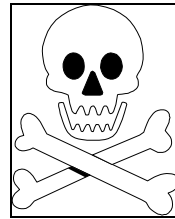
RILEY CENTER UPDATE

Death of a Repeater

Hank, K8DD

THERE HAVE BEEN a lot of rumors about what happened to the 147.300 repeater in Riley Center and why it has been off the air. Here are the facts:

Late on September 12 or early September 13 the 147.300 repeater site was broken into by a person or persons unbolting the cyclone fence on the gate, breaking the padlock on the door to the building, jimmied the door knob, entered the building, moved a box of tower lights, and unhooked the Phelps-Dodge duplexer from the 2 meter repeater, took the duplexer, put the box of tower lights back and left the building, closing the door and bending the fence back down.



The radio technician who is responsible for the building was on vacation and did not make it to the site until October 2 when he found the building was vandalized. At that time a police report was made with the Michigan State Police.

No damage was done to any of the commercial UHF equipment owned by the SEMCO Energy gas company.

It appears that this was done by a person or persons in the Amateur Radio Service who desired the 147.300 repeater off the air, and I take it as a personal attack.

The 147.300 repeater has been coordinated by the Michigan Area Repeater Council since June 1979 and has been on the air since August 1979.

In the past few years another repeater in Southern Ontario has come up on the same frequency, making false statements about the Riley Center Repeater and it's trustee. That coupled with the degradation of language and threats from the users of that repeater, the Riley Center Repeater is now silent.

The repeater has been off the air, but it was on the air for one day, October 5, 1997 with a borrowed duplexer, to provide promised communications for the Blue Water Ramble Bike Ride and then was taken off the air.

—Continued on Page 12

FIELD DAY RESULTS CONGRATULATIONS USECA

#1 Michigan
#1 Great Lakes
#5 North America

NEXT MEETING — November 4

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Dennis Gaboury/KB8YYC, (810) 465-7126
 Vice President Dave Martin/W8VB, (810) 826-9783
 Recording Secretary Debbi Cokewell/KB8YYB, (810) 263-0227
 Treasurer Jim Mickle/N8OKW, (810) 739-6565
 Membership Secretary Mark Milby/KI8CB, (810) 293-3603
 Past President Floyd Soo/W8RO, (810) 391-6660

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Ann Manor/KG8IF, (810) 751-3893
 Nancy Carr/KB8QMS, (810) 749-3383
 Marianne Mickle/N8TMJ, (810) 739-6565

COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison Dave/W8VB
 Awards Manager Ken/KF8RG
 Door Prizes Dina/N8YJL
 Editor Joe/K8OEF, (810) 781-0050
 Field Day Chair Scott/KG8IE, (810) 978-1203
 Health & Welfare Kathy/N8VOH, (810) 752-7818 & John/N8FNO
 Historians Jerry/K8CFY; Ann/KG8IF & Joe/WD8MFN
 Mailers/Sorters Ann/KG8IF; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
 Net Manager Dave/KC8IAQ, (810) 791-2720
 Photographer Richard/K8QLM
 Program Director —VACANT—(Interim: Floyd/W8RO)
 Public Relations Officer Ken/KF8RG
 Refreshments Phil/W8IC & Marianne/N8TMJ
 Repeater Trustee Chuck/WA8Z
 Swap & Shop Chris/KC8EZU, (810) 987-6540
 Technical Director Doug/N8KND, (810) 558-7729
 Trash-For-Cash Gary/KC8CXB (810) 468-3925

CONTROL OPERATORS

Doug/K8DK Floyd/W8RO Dennis/KB8YYC
 Earl/N8OEX Bill/N8SA Chuck/WA8Z
 Nancy/KB8QMS Gulliver/WA8VIJ

PROGRAMMERS

Doug/N8KND Bill/N8SA Chuck/WA8Z

VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS

AA8CY	AA8HF	WY8M	KG8QT	N8SA
WB8E	KG8IE	KA8NDY	KF8RG	W8VB
K8EN	WX3L	N8OEF	W8RO	K8WI

SILENT KEYS

Len Czapiewski/K8DHH	Rick Parady/KB8KLW
Art Sheff/WD8EGV	John Moore/KA8KTV
Joe Lucido/NU8F	John Palmer/WD8LBH
Charles Smith/N8FWF	John Pizuti/WB8NHT
Clarence Ringo/W8HQO	Velma Ragon/N8YVC
Joe Steel/KA8IZM	

f= Founder c= Charter h= Hon. Charter

N8AWV h	N8HCT fc	WB8OSF h
KA8BDG c	KA8IZM fc SK	K8QLM fc
N8BK h	KA8KTV fc SK	WB8QNI c
N8FDN c	G. Manquardt h	KA8VYV h
N8FNO fc	WD8MFN fc	WA8VZZ c
J. Haubner c	WD8NHT fc	

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

Did it seem like you received your last *Express* in a more timely fashion? If so, give a big thanks to Debbi, KB8YYB. It was Debbi's suggestion to put the post office wording on the label page.

Reminder: November's General Meeting will be one week earlier (November 4).

The club has a new Net Manager—Dave, KC8IAQ.

It's nomination time. Give it some serious thought. I can say I thought all the board members did a fantastic job this past year. I also believe each and every one of them did something beyond their normal call of duty. As an example, Dennis and the March of Dimes; Dave and his ARRL involvement; Debbi who constantly helps me; Jim does the Romeo Parade; Mark is so involved in the Salvation Army; Ann and Pre-Field Day; Nancy and her talent with Field Day shirts; Marianne (Jim's constant sidekick), with her liaison technique constantly helps us obtain and stabilize our meeting place. Even what some might think he is only the past president, Floyd is everywhere, helping everyone, all the time.

73 for now.



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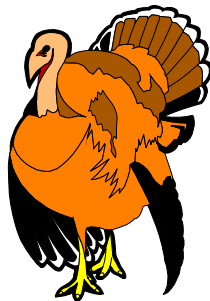
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*Ken's Kozy Korner***November's Ramblings***Ken, KF8RG*

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT you, but Fall is usually my favorite season. Although I haven't been hunting in almost 20 years, I've always thrilled to the cooler days of Fall and the colorful changes it brings to Michigan's greenery (as well as the Fall Salmon runs!). For the last 18 years, a close friend and I have camped and fished along the Betsie River, occasionally for just a weekend, at other times for a week. Over the years, many "traditions" have worked their way into our trip's annual agenda—eating at "The Manitou," hot coffee spiked with "Emmett's Irish Cream" or "E&J Brandy" (for warmth, of course!), canoeing the Platte River, visiting the State Fish Hatchery, and visiting the Betsie Point Lighthouse—to name but a few. This year I added Amateur Radio!

Although I've taken a VHF/UHF HT with me since becoming a ham, getting into any repeater from our campsite was nigh unto impossible. My HF base rig, a Kenwood TS 450 S/AT, was originally bought with portability in mind (it's been the 15m CW Field Day station for 4 years now), but I just never seemed to get around to taking it along on trips. I had never taken the time to pack the HF rig for travel. It's one mistake I won't make again! When the fishing in the river got slow this year, I used my 450 and two Pro-Am antennas to fish for CW QSOs on the 40 & 80m Novice bands (my fist falls apart at much more than 15 wpm on a straight key!). I also had fun on the U.P. Net (3921 kHz SSB @ 6pm), where I met a whole buncha' friendly fellas. Although I was no "big gun" at 80W, reaching the Detroit area seemed to be no problem on 75m. Next time though, I will take along ALL my Pro-Am HF antennas. (It'd be fun to check into a county hunter net—Benzie County is the smallest county in Michigan.) I might even take along a 75m dipole to improve my signal on that band. Try taking Amateur Radio along on your next trip, you won't regret it!

September's "Western Wear" campout was yet another USECA success, with over 37 of our members either camping or visiting. Saturday night's pot luck dinner in the "big tent" was HUGE, with selections including BBQ ribs, steaks, buffalo wings, salads, and several dessert dishes — *YUM!* As evening wore on and the air grew chill, we gathered around the campfire to keep warm (ask KB8QMS about the "borrowed" log), tell jokes, and watch freighters pass on the river. W8IC on guitar and KF8XO on harmonica provided the evening's melodies—a fine way to bring USECA's 1997 camping season to a close. ("Campmeister" Dina and others have worked behind the scenes for sev-

—Continued on Page 7*FROM THE NEW***NET MANAGER**

Hello to everybody! My name is Dave Cunningam, and my call is KC8IAQ. I have accepted the job as Net Manager for the USECA club. I am very excited about doing this and I promise I will do the best job I can. The only changes I have in mind, are to increase net participation. Let me take this opportunity to say that I am proud to be a member of the USECA club, and I think it is the best club going anywhere by far.

I would also like to thank all of you that have participated as NCO's for USECA's nets. I want to challenge some of you newer operators out there to take a net once in awhile, just try it out one time, you might like it! I will provide you with any answers or instructions you might need. There are many ways to reach me, if you want to be scheduled for a net:

Home Phone: (810) 791-2720

Pager on 24hrs: (313) 431-3469

Packet station 24 hours: 145.030 MHz mail @ KC8IAQ-1

Home Packet BBS: KV8BK on 145.010 MHz

Secondary Packet BBS: DETIP on 144.930 MHz

Tele-Tech BBS 24 hours: (313) 371-2070 Detroit

Landline 5 nodes:

(810) 254-3376 Utica

(248) 548-9002 Royal Oak

(248) 623-9976 Pontiac

(313) 534-9909 Redford/Livonia

Instructions, net rules and procedures will be posted for download from my packet station, and on my landline BBS.



Save Those AES Receipts!

AES has a great deal for amateur radio clubs. We can accumulate *Purchasing Power* at Amateur Electronic Supply.

Every time you buy something from AES, they will allow the club 1 percent of the invoice total towards a purchase. We can buy anything we want -- something special or something fun, like door prizes.

The accrual period is one year, starting September 1, 1997, and is in celebration of AES's 40th anniversary.

So, start saving your receipts and bring them to a club meeting, give them to a board members, or mail to the Club . . .

Thanks AES!

*—Key-Klix, October 1997**[Something for USECA members to consider—Ed.]*

GET OFF THE REPEATER!



DID THAT GET your attention? Much procrastination has gone into whether I should even consider writing such an article. I've waited long enough and heard enough to convince me to, "get it off my chest."

Why are there repeaters? Several decades ago, the FCC heard the cries of commercial users of two-way radio and allowed a radio classification entitled "Mobile Relay." The mobile relay is what we amateurs today call a repeater.

The purpose of the mobile relay was to increase radio coverage of mobile-to-mobile radios, (portables were included in the mobile category). In most all radio services, fixed station to fixed station was not allowed; (it was probably an infringement of the telephone companies back then.)

So what's the point? Give the repeater back to the mobiles/portables. Two base stations gabbing back and forth (sometime for hours), tying up the repeater is absurd and should be frowned upon. (How about using a simplex frequency?) OK, you can't make the haul; that doesn't mean you should use (and abuse) a tool that was really designed to afford better coverage for the mobiles/portables.

OK, you hear someone on the air you want to talk to—no big deal; but at least have some courtesy and consideration for others to use the system. I was going to say: especially during drive time! Whoa! What's that? I don't really know. Who knows? Anyone?

Since there is no hard and fast rule, let me reiterate what is my personal opinion. In the morning, it's 6:30 to 9:00; and later it is 4:00 to 6:30. What's my basis for that? Try common sense! Honestly though, I borrowed that from the SMART repeater. (OK, hold the comments and bite your tongue if you are one of those; you know who you are.)

Back in the good ole days, (mid-60s), I remember when there were only two repeaters in town; the Great Lakes and the DART (yep, same one). Users on the DART were informed to be considerate of other users and during drive time get off the repeater after ten minutes of usage; let others have a chance to use the system.

Here we go with another thing that sticks in my craw. Users nowadays stand by and ask if anyone wants to use the repeater. Sure, I'm going to break in and say, "I do." How far would it go if I then called the person I wanted to talk to? then continue our own ten minute QSO. (I don't think so, Tim!) Get the point, I want to talk to who I want to talk to and try to be courteous and wait until the repeater is not in use. I realize that on larger systems it's difficult to do . . . but I'm sure we'll survive.

Recently (and occasionally to my surprise), I would hear a mobile sign off and say they wanted to let others use the repeater. My, my, what a novel and workable idea.

Then again, there are the mobiles who get on there for what I think is a long time (30+ minutes?) and as they drive from point A to point B using the repeater; not communicating, just talking and talking and saying very little. Just because your car has a microphone inside doesn't necessarily mean you must use it every time you're in the vehicle.

OK people, don't get carried away and think everyone should stay off the repeater all the time. No way would or should that ever happen.

Notice I try to call the repeater a repeater; or a system. Never a "machine." Yeah, I've heard the slang term; but when you get down to brass tacks, it is not a machine because it does not contain any moving parts; (machine's definition in the dictionary.)

I feel better now that I've said my piece. Take it for what it's worth—just use a little common sense.

—Joe, K8OEF

" F o r I D ? "

L e a v e A G a p !

**" N o t h i n g
H e a r d "**

" M a c h i n e ? "

FROM BELDEN

GROUNDING

by Stephen H. Lampen
Technology Development Manager
Belden Wire & Cable

Disclaimer

This paper is an overview of grounding procedures and practices as they relate to audio, video, data and other signal wiring. The ground problems considered are those which appear with low-voltage systems such as noise, radio-frequency interference and ground loops.

While electrical safety ground is discussed and analyzed, this paper is not intended as a guide to safe electrical grounding procedures and practices. Electrical safety ground design and/or installation should only be performed by experienced, licensed personnel and accepted and signed-off by local building inspectors or similar officials.

Belden Wire & Cable assumes no liability for any design, construction or installation made based upon the recommendations below.

1. Introduction

Virtually all data and broadcast construction projects run into problems of grounding. These problems occur primarily because there is a conflict between issues of safety (i.e., grounding to prevent electrical shock to users of the equipment) and electronic noise reduction (i.e., using "ground" as an electronic 'dump' for noise and interference.) These two uses are often not compatible and can sometimes be in direct conflict with one another.

This white paper is an overview of grounding systems and schemes with the ultimate purpose being the preservation and adherence to the safety aspects while obtaining the maximum noise reduction possible.

2. What is "Ground"?

The definitions of ground, physical and electrical, are closely related. The ground, as in the dirt under our feet, has been known for over 150 years to be a good conductor. Early in the history of telecommunications, with the advent of the telegraph, it was known that the ground at our feet could substitute for one of the wires needed to make a circuit. This required that the other wire be insulated from ground and was usually hung on wooden poles, what we would call telegraph poles (or, later, telephone poles). The understanding that the ground could substitute for one of the conductors saved 50% in the cost

of wiring and almost as much in the labor to install it.

3. Ground and Lightning

It was recognized early on that lightning was simply the electrical difference, or potential, from a cloud and the ground. A lightning bolt was the discharge of that potential difference from the ground to the cloud (although the ionized plasma path of air molecules *looks* like it goes the other way). Lightning rods give the lightning a very low resistance path to ground and therefore, save other structures, vehicles or people from being in that conductive path. In fact, the idea of a low resistance path to ground, is one of the keys to understanding the uses of ground in electronics.

4. Ground and the Telephone

When telephones were invented, and later audio equipment (microphones, amplifiers, speakers), it was realized that some of the audio signals were so weak that the slightest electrical noise could interfere with them. To prevent outside interference, a shield of wires was woven around the signal wires—later metal foil was also used. For any shield to work, it must be attached to ground. Since ground has a low resistance, the noise would prefer to flow into the ground than stay around the signal wires and interfere with them.

5. Ground and Capacitors

In high-voltage, high-power transmitters, it was learned early on that many devices, especially 'capacitors', stored electrical charges which could be lethal to those working on the equipment. Special circuits were installed which would 'bleed' away the lethal charges to ground. Or a wooden stick was provided with a metal end and a wire attached to the metal end. With the wire connected to ground, an engineer could touch devices and surfaces inside high-voltage equipment. If something was highly-charged, the metal tip and wire would discharge the voltage to ground thus ensuring the safety of the engineer. These are still in broadcast transmitters and other high-voltage equipment and are called 'grounding sticks'.

6. Ground and Power Distribution

Meanwhile, with the rise of power distribution to homes and businesses, the lethal nature of even 120 volts (or 220 in Europe) was immediately apparent. One way of protecting the user was to enclose plugs, switches and wires in metal boxes or tubing, called conduit. Once the conduit was grounded, it meant that any wiring fault, break, short-circuit or other potentially

lethal charge, would send the electrical power to ground instead of through the user. It is the use, as safety grounding for electrical power distribution, that ground is most commonly used. However, like any other use, the ground point chosen (i.e., connection into the earth) must be a good, low-resistance one. The better the ground, the safer the installation.

A simple safety ground is established by tying a wire to a cold water pipe. Cold water pipes invariably go underground and attach to even deeper larger pipes. Therefore, they make an easy connection scheme for ground. However, if a portion of metal pipe between the ground wire and the ground itself is broken, missing or replaced by plastic pipe, there is no ground, and the danger of electrical shock to that building's occupants is seriously increased.

The author recalls vividly as a young boy watching workmen in the street installing a new sewer pipe. Down in the hole, the workmen had removed all the dirt around the pipe and had begun to use power saws to cut the old pipe away. However, the did not cut completely through the pipe, leaving one small connection. Then one workman in rubber gloves and a special insulated saw, cut through the last piece. Another workman also in rubber gloves, holding a meter with two leads, touched one lead to each side of the cut.

It was not until many years later that the author understood what they were doing. The sewer pipe was probably the main ground connection for all the buildings in that area. If someplace under the street the ground was especially conductive, there could be a lot of electrical energy flowing down the pipe at that point. If, by cutting the pipe, the workman had interrupted that flow, they could be injured or killed by then touching both sides of the severed pipe. By using a voltmeter on each side of the pipe, they could tell how energized that section of pipe was. As it turned out, it must have had very little electrical energy flowing down it as they proceeded to take off their rubber gloves and cut up the pipe with regular saws.

Regardless of how the safety ground is established, even if it is made by driving copper rods into the ground, there is one absolutely predictable thing that will happen: no matter how good the ground point itself is, by the time you add wire or conduit to that point, and the further that wire or conduit goes from that source, the less protection you will have. This is simply because all

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

(June-September)

Mark, K18CB

- KB8SUL Dave Wagner
- KC8HNO Pat Young
- KC8IAP Mary Lamorand
- KC8IAQ Dave Cunningham
- WB8SIW James Wades
- KC8HYW James Brown
- KC8IAO Peggy Milby
- KC8HMJ Rich Line
- KC8GUE Michael Wissmiller
- (No Call) Dan Schafer



"THE HAPPENIN' CLUB"

CLUB ACTIVITIES

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
NOV	4	7:30 pm	General Meeting (Nominations)
NOV	8	Noon	Thumbs Up Road Rally
DEC	9	7:30 pm	General Meeting (Elections)
DEC	13	6:30 pm	10th Annual Christmas Party



Reminder: As a USECA member, you received the following:

I am writing to invite you to volunteer in Macomb County's first Election Net. Election Net will be on the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 4, 1997 to report election results for a state senate special election.

Contact Todd Schmitz, KG8BW, Macomb County Clerk's Office at: (810) 469-5123.



"Do I Have It?"

FOR SALE

Kenwood TM-731 dual band mobile, fully modified, tone decode board, best RX front end ever made, box and manual, \$400. M2 440 beam, 18 element, with manual \$75. 440 mobile gain antenna, NMO mount, \$25. 2M mobile gain antenna, NMO mount \$25. 2M N8RUH copper pipe J-pole, \$10. Arpad, WY8M, (810) 751-3804.

MFJ-1798 vertical ant. Oscar Boomer 738XB, 70 cm. Oscar Boomer 22XB, 144-148. Yaesu G5400B/5600B rotor, \$500 for all. KB8WVW (810) 781-9402.

MFJ-204B antenna bridge (analyzer) \$50. MFJ-202B RF noise bridge, new, never used \$40. Boca IDE 100 hard drive controller card, new, still in box, \$16. Jerry, K8CFY, (810) 791-4484 or E-Mail: irish12@juno.com.

2 Meter VHF FM 80 watt amp., 12 vdc, keys w/1 watt. \$100. 10 & 15 meter HF 3-element beam, \$120. 20 meter HF 3-element Hy-Gain beam \$120. Sea Hawk 14 VHF/FM marine radio \$75. T.J., N8RUH, (810) 786-5735.

★New this month.

The above column is for club members only.
(Notify the editor to have items added/removed.)



November's Ramblings—Continued from Page 3

eral years now to make USECA's campouts the success they have been. Thanks for the great job!

Congratulations to W8RO, WB8E, KC8IAQ, KB8QMS, K18CB, KB8YYC, N8MOJ, KA2IBE, and KC8GMT on earning the latest VHF/HF awards! (presented at October's meeting) Your enthusiastic participation in USECA's nets are what keeps them informative and fun! Many thanks also to those NCOs who regularly send in their net logs in a TIMELY fashion: KA2IBE, K8QLM, KC8IAQ, KC8GMT, W8IC/KG8IF, N8OKW/N8TMJ, W8RO, KB8YYC, W8VRW, N8MOJ, W1IK, KB8TAS/KB8YYB, KB8QMS, WN8VOT, K18CB, N8OEF, and KG8IE/N8VVH. (If you've heard someone take a net and their callsign ain't here, I haven't received a log from them in the last several months—no net log = no credit for those who checked in—get on their case!) To date, 14 VHF awards and 3 HF awards have been earned by USECAns.

Till next month . . . 73.



NAME BADGES
WITH THE OFFICIAL USECA LOGO
CONTACT JERRY, KB8TAS: (810) 263-0227

NOMINATE . . . VOTE!

Be sure to be at the November meeting to nominate your choices for the upcoming December elections! This is YOUR club—ENSURE it's future by taking an ACTIVE role in it's democratic process. REMEMBER, nominees MUST be DUES-PAID members in good standing for at least the last 6 weeks and nominations can ONLY be accepted from DUES-PAID members.

If you cannot be present for voting or nominations; be sure to get a signed and dated proxy ballot or nomination to Marianne (N8TMJ) before the night of the meeting.

November's Contest Corral

- 1-3 ARRL November Sweepstakes
(CW)(*earn a Mug or a pin!*)
- 8-9 Worked all Europe Contest
(RTTY)
- 11-12 VK/ZL/Oceania Contest (CW)
- 15-16 ARRL International EME test
- 15-17 ARRL November Sweepstakes
(Phone)(*2nd chance for Mug!*)
- 15-16 IARU Region 1 160m Contest
- 15-16 RSGB 1.8Mhz Contest (CW)
- 29-30 CQ Magazine, World Wide DX
Contest (CW)
- (from QST)

Be sure to send your scores and any comments about ARRL contests to ARRL, 225 Main, Newington, CT. 06111—you *might* just see your call in QST!

Mobile CW—Continued from Page 1

Marion (N8MOJ) will ONLY use a J-38 key—*mobile or no!* She's a purist when it comes to her CW and wouldn't use anything other than a standard Navy issue straight key! (although she does have one on a knee strap)

Jim (WB8SIW) is one of the few fellas I know of who has the skill to occasionally run a "Bug" while mobile! (Not all that unusual when you consider he has demonstrated the ability to copy with his left hand, send with his right, and hold a conversation simultaneously!) He keeps his "Bug" solidly in place, on his transmission hump, with velcro. The mechanically sensitive "Mobile Bug" necessitates driving on good roads and avoiding bumps to send accurate CW. (almost rules out Michigan!)

In my Lumina Euro with space at a premium, I use a White Rook Model #44 iambic key—it's made mostly of plastic, only costs \$12, and is about 2-1/2 inches square in size. It's got a good "feel" and is light enough to be easily mounted on a 2 inch swatch of Velcro (in my case, on the transmission console armrest) and stored elsewhere on a smaller velcro patch when not in use.

Join the fun of CW/mobile! Amaze your friends and family! It might even put the "FUN" back in a hobby grown stale for you!

BCNU down the road—de KF8RG/M!

E-MAIL DIRECTORY

N8ARO, Al: allum@mich.com
 K8CFY, Jerry: irish12@juno.com
 KM5D, Eric: km5d@amsat.org
 K8DK, Doug: dkaherl@rust.net
 KC8EDK, Brian: bgeci@oakland.edu
 KC8EEJ, Jim: kc8eej@juno.com
 KC8EMD, Jason: kc8emd@juno.com
 K8EN, Ken: k8en@contesting.com
 N8ERV, Tom: n8erv@tir.com
 KC8EZU, Chris: kc8ezu@wwnet.net
 KC8FDQ, Dustin: kc8fdq@juno.com
 *WB8FIU, Phil: pkroll@net-ex.com
 *KC8FMV, Joe: subzero@123.net
 WA8GQL, Dan: radiodan@ix.netcom.com
 W8IC, Phil: pamanor@earthlink.net
 KG8IE, Scott: kg8ie@wwnet.net
 KG8IF, Ann: pamanor@earthlink.net
 WD8IFL, Dave: dragon8@flash.net
 WA8JPR, Bill: wa8jpr@aol.com
 W8KC, Paul: prvalko@oakland.edu
 N8KND, Doug: dcmartin@oakland.edu
 WX8L, Sean: mccarths@lcm.macom.lib.mi.us
 KB8LYA, Fred: kb8lya@juno.com
 *K8M, Tom: bowes@tir.com
 WY8M, Arpad: Inusifg.jzrrs@eds.com
 *KF8MB, Mel: kf8mb@juno.com
 KA8NDY, Dan: badboy400@aol.com
 N8NQQ, Biff: baydoun@mich.com
 K8OEF, Joe: k8oef@tir.com
 N8OEF, Val: vbreault@aol.com
 N8OKW, Jim: jimmickle@juno.com
 K8PIK, Marilyn: glass2@juno.com
 KB8QMS, Nancy: kb8qms@juno.com
 KB0QYX, Bob: kb0qyx@mailhost.net
 N8RHW, Jim: jjaros@rust.net
 W8RO, Floyd: hires@rust.net
 N8RRU, Gary: gdzidows@ix.netcom.com
 N8SA, Bill: chesney@rust.net
 KB8TAS, Jerry: kb8tas@juno.com
 KB8TVV, Jim: jim@c3net.net
 K8TXS, Alex: alexj@rust.net
 W8VB, Dave: dcmenginc@aol.com
 WA8VIJ, Gulliver: gsilvagi@ford.com
 N8VLY, Joan: jlwdzid@aol.com
 *N8VOH, Kathy: vev@mich.com
 WN8VOT, Dave: wn8vot@juno.com
 N8VVH, Linda: kg8ie@wwnet.net
 KB8WBV, Ken: kb8wbv@voyager.net
 KB8WCM, Steve: stevenmessina@juno.com
 KG8WG, Lee: badboy400@aol.com
 KB8WVW, Chris: chris1@wwnet.com
 KB8YBT, John: kb8ybt@c3net.net
 KB8YJM, John: kb8yjm@aol.com
 N8YWS, Stan: cydejko@juno.com
 KG8YX, Doc: kg8yxdoc@tir.com
 KB8YYB, Debbi: cuer@juno.com
 KB8YYC, Dennis: wazoo@prodigy.net

*New/change from previous.

If you are a club member and would like your address published (or changed) in the *Express*, send it via e-mail to K8OEF.



4
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C
A

USECA 1997 VHF Net Points as received by Oct. 12th

Displayed 198 of 325

Call	Name	pts	Call	Name	pts	Call	Name	pts
K800YX	BOB	4	K8GFM	DOUG	2	K88PLW	DAN	3
KA0TNS	JACK	2	K8GFN	DAVE	1	K9QLM	RICHARD	201
K80TT	JB	1	K8GMT	LORA	70	K8QLZ	GARY	1
WW1AW	BILL	2	K8GMU	GEORGE	12	K8QMP	BILL	8
W1IK	JIM	82	K8GNC	LENNIE	1	K8QMS	NANCY	51
WB2C	ANDY	11	K8GNH	KEVIN	1	K8QXD	SUE	2
KA2IBE	JOHN	7	K8GPO	KEN	7	K8QXD	RANDY	10
AA2LY	TERRY	1	WA8GQL	DAN	11	N8OZS	PAUL	1
VA3AMD	BILL	1	K8GRZ	JERRY	1	N8RAR	WAYNE	14
WX3L	MIKE	6	K8GUC	LENNY	2	KF8RG	KEN	42
VE3MIG	MIKE	1	K8GUE	MIKE	6	N8RHT	RICH	2
VE3SUB	TERRY	1	K8GXA	PHIL	1	K8RJS	ERIC	2
VE3TBI	TIM	1	K8GXE	PATRICK	2	W8RO	FLOYD	58
KE4MTM	MIKE	1	K8H8H	JEFF	1	N8RRU	GARY	18
W4VNS	ED	1	K8HCU	JOHN	1	N8RUE	EDDIE	15
KE4WQJ	LOIS	1	K8HGL	JOE	2	N8RUH	TJ	9
WB5CNM	RANDY	1	K8HGU	JOHN	2	N8RUJ	ED	6
KC5MTM	SCOTT	1	K8HMG	JANICE	48	N8RWI	JOHN	1
KB7QWW	DOUG	1	K8HMJ	RICH	3	N8SA	BILL	11
KB7YWN	JOHN	1	K8HMK	VICKY	1	N8SCQ	BOB	1
KB8AKS	JERRY	39	K8HMN	SCOTT	13	N8SHI	BETTY	26
KC8ARS	HENRY	6	K8HYQ	KEVIN	1	W88SIW	JIM	6
KA8BDG	DICK	16	K8HYS	PAT	4	K88SUL	DAVE	2
KC8BFE	NEEDNAME	1	K8HYU	JOHN	6	K88TAS	JERRY	60
KC8BFP	MARK	16	N8HZE	KEN	9	K88TEZ	MATT	11
W88HF	BOB	6	K8IAO	PEGGY	6	N8TLC	BILL	1
KC8BHP	MARK	1	K8IAP	MARY	24	N8TMJ	MARIANNE	29
KC8BIU	TED	41	K8IAQ	DAVE	57	K8TVV	JIM	12
K16CB	MARK	50	W8IBO	DENNIS	1	N8UDZ	ADRIAN	7
K8CFY	JERRY	43	K8BIE	SCOTT	30	K8BUFM	BOB	1
KC8CHZ	GEORGE	4	K8BIF	ANN	35	K8BHG	STEVE	5
KC8CPT	DON	46	W8BIFL	DAVE	11	K8BULS	ROGER	2
KC8CTS	DAVE	2	K8BHO	COLLIN	3	N8ULW	LEE	1
KC8CBX	GARY	46	K8BKW	GARY	1	KE8UM	MURRAY	1
KC8DBG	BILL	25	K8BPG	LOU	1	W8VB	DAVE	47
KC8DDE	ROBERT	2	KB8JN	FRANK	2	N8VBW	WAYNE	1
KC8DDG	TOM	8	W8JP	JOHN	1	N8VGB	STEVE	1
KC8DDL	ANDY	3	WA8JPR	BILL	38	N8VLY	JOAN	4
K8DHA	JOHN	1	K8BJUL	JOHN	1	KE8VM	DAN	1
KC8DIR	BRIAN	46	K8BJUZ	WALT	3	WN8VOT	DAVE	81
KC8DIU	TED	1	N8KAN	JOHN	1	K8BVQM	LESTER	4
KC8DPT	TOM	1	W8KC	PAUL	23	W8VRW	HARRY	1
KC8DRK	TIM	6	N8KLC	JERRY	2	N8VSI	SCOTT	2
KC8DTF	LIZ	1	N8KND	DOUG	2	N8VTF	DON	46
W88E	WALT	53	K8BLYA	FRED	14	N8VUA	ED	1
KC8EDK	BRIAN	3	K8BM	TOM	6	N8VVH	LINDA	17
KC8EDO	JIM	6	WY8M	ARPAD	11	K8WBV	KEN	2
W8ERN	ANGELO	1	N8MCO	JIM	2	K8WCP	DON	1
N8ERV	TOM	3	N8MIV	NORM	1	K8WFX	STAN	1
KC8ESR	RICH	1	N8MMV	MIKE	1	K8WVG	LEE	28
KC8EVI	LES	13	K8MUA	ANDY	1	K8WH	DAVE	29
KC8EZU	CHRIS	11	K8NDY	DAN	34	K8WI	BILL	29
KC8EZW	TED	1	W8NG	JIM	41	K8WLR	CHUCK	3
W88F	BOB	6	N8NMX	BILL	1	K8WTH	RICH	75
KC8FER	KURT	1	N8NQO	BIFF	21	W8WZ	CARL	5
KC8FES	MARK	3	K8NSR	BOB	1	KF8XO	JEFF	7
W88FPQ	BILL	1	N8OEF	VAL	54	N8XRE	JOE	1
KC8FTW	AMY	4	N8OEV	DAVE	16	N8YJI	DINA	28
KC8FTY	DEREK	9	N8OEX	EARL	6	N8YTV	HARRY	18
W88FUI	PHIL	10	N8OKW	JIM	38	N8YWS	STAN	17
KC8FXF	MIKE	5	N8OMP	GARY	2	K8BYX	DOC	46
KC8FYO	RAY	1	K8OX	RICH	8	K8BYA	DREUX	68
KC8FYQ	GERALD	29	AA8OZ	PAUL	2	K8BYC	DENNIS	55
KC8FYR	BRENT	4	N8PAP	JON	1	N8ZFA	PETE	5
KC8FZO	ANDY	5	K8PIK	MARILYNN	11	N8ZZF	PAT	10
			W88PLQ	GAYLEN	1	K8MYF	JEFF	1

Top 20 VHF Operators

Call	Name	pts	
1	K9QLM	RICHARD	201
2	W1IK	JIM	82
3	WN8VOT	DAVE	81
4	K88WTH	RICH	75
5	K88GMT	LORA	70
6	K88YA	DREUX	68
7	K88TAS	JERRY	60
8	W8RO	FLOYD	58
9	K88IAQ	DAVE	57
10	K88YVC	DENNIS	55
11	N8OEF	VAL	54
12	W88E	WALT	53
13	K88OMS	NANCY	51
14	K16CB	MARK	50
15	K88HMG	JANICE	48
16	W8VB	DAVE	47
17	K88YX	DOC	46
18	N8VTF	DON	46
19	KC8DIR	BRIAN	46
20	KC8CPT	DON	46

Top HF operators

Call	Name	pts	
1	K88GMT	LOHA	68
2	N8MOJ	MARION	54
3	KA2IBE	JOHN	53
4	KF8RG	KEN	43
5	W8RO	FLOYD	32
6	W8VRW	HARRY	32
7	W8IC	PHIL	30
8	K88WTH	RICHARD	26
9	N8OEV	DAVE	24
10	K16CB	MARK	22
11	K8WI	BILL	22
12	W88FUI	PHIL	16
13	K88YVC	DENNIS	15
14	WN8VOT	DAVE	13
15	W8NG	JIM	12
16	K9QLM	RICHARD	10
17	K88HMG	JANICE	10
18	N8RAR	WAYNE	8
19	N8WYO	AL	8
20	KC8EMD	JASON	8

Database c/o KF8RG (Ken)
Software written by WU8C (Tom)

See USECA's "Net Point System Explanation" for info on how net points & awards are earned.

Want to run a net?..
...Earn extra points?

See or call Dave (K88IAQ),
USECA's new Net Manager,
for more information!



HANDLES



PERSONALS



NAMES



(810) 268-6730

NOVEMBER MEETING HOSTS

Denise, KC8IPF

Peggy, KC8IAO

1997 NET POINT SYSTEM

- ✓1) HF CW NCO = 4 points, HF SSB/VHF NCO = 3 points, HF CW/SSB check-in = 2 points, VHF check-in = 1 point. (NOTE: Check-ins *must* do so personally, proxy check-ins are not legitimate. "In & Out" check-ins, while allowed, are discouraged.)
- ✓2) Awards are earned for 50 points and multiples thereof; plaques for the highest annual scores, HF and VHF. Awards are meant to encourage participation and are open to all.
- ✓3) Net logs must be readable and include the CALLS and NAMES of check-ins, as well as NCO, DATE, and MODE.
- ✓4) NCO's: forward net log gets to the Awards Manager within 30 days; logs received later will not earn the bonus points normally awarded a NCO. MAIL logs to: 53762 Kristin Ct., Shelby Twp., MI 48316, c/o KF8RG, via packet to KF8RG-1 (145.03 MHz) or KF8RG @ DETIP BBS (144.93) or catch me on the air to pass your list.
- ✓5) If you notice any mistakes, wrong or changed call signs, names misspelled, etc., let Ken know ASAP.

USECA VE TESTING

Examinations for an Amateur License are held the on the first Saturday of each month (except July and August). Starting time is 7:15 p.m. — please do not arrive earlier. Walk-ins are welcomed. Pre-registration is preferred. Test site is at the Salvation Army, 55 Church, 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. For more information and directions to the test site, call Bill, N8SA at: (810) 468-8345; (before 9:00 p.m.).

USECA APPAREL

Jackets-\$45.00 • Sweatshirts-\$25.00
 Polo Shirts-\$22.00 • Caps-\$6.00
 (2X & 3X-Additional Charge)
 Contact: Richard, KB8WTH
 At Meetings or Phone (810) 791-4669

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 Donald Bemis Junior High School, 12500 Nineteen Mile Road (between Schoenherr and Clinton River Road), Sterling Heights, 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

USECA Board Meeting Minutes—October 7, 1997

In attendance:

- *KB8YYC Dennis President
- W8VB Dave Vice-President
- KB8YYB Debbi Recording Secretary
- KI8CB Mark Membership Secretary
- N8OKW Jim Treasurer
- KG8IF Ann Board Member
- KB8QMS Nancy Board Member
- N8TMJ Marianne Board Member
- W8RO Floyd Past President
- *K8CFY Jerry Historian
- K8OEF Joe Express Editor
- KC8EZU Chris Swap Chairman
- KG8IE Scott Field Day Chairman
- N8KND Doug Repeater Technician
- W8YM, Arpad; KB8TAS, Jerry; KG8BW, Todd
- * Absent

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President at 7:35 P.M.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted. The Treasurer also reported that we have received the insurance rider for the Swap.

Membership: Mark, KI8CB reported that current membership exceeds 217.

Repeater: Doug, N8KND, informed the board that the power supply switcher has been ordered at a cost of \$180.00. It is a commercial grade thermally protected 100 watt switcher. Doug urged all members to please call him anytime the repeater is down. Do not assume someone else has reported the problem.

ARRL: Dave, W8VB reported that the Kalamazoo Swap is scheduled for October 19, 1997 and will not conflict with ours.

Newsletter: Articles will be due at the general membership meeting.

Old Business:

Swap: Chris, KC8EZU, has already received \$750.00 from advanced ticket sales and the sale of over 50 tables for the Swap. There will be several forums including; N.T.S. Traffic Net, F.I.S.T., VHF-UHF Operations, Towers, and Skywarn, as well as testing. We are going to set up power cords to supply power to the center area. There was discussion of a bake sale, Chris was instructed to check with the Italian Cultural Society to see if there is any problem with this idea.

Christmas Party: Ann, KG8IF, promulgated that the Christmas Party will be held on December 13, 1997 at Garwood's. We will assemble at 6:30 P.M. for cocktails and 7:30 P.M. for a buffet dinner, which will include: Chicken, Beef Tips, Salad, Vegetables,

Potatoes, Coffee and Soft Drinks; Tips and Tax are included. The cost for the party will be \$15.00 per person, the party is limited to 75-100 people. Reservations will be open to members and their partners or spouses this month. Reservations will be open to guests in November. There will be a smoking section and people will be asked to refrain from smoking during dinner.

New Business:

Mark, KI8CB, began a discussion regarding a school space shuttle communication program. Clubs sponsor a school for application into the communication program. Upon being selected, the club would provide equipment and set-up for the designated communication date. Mark suggested we consider sponsoring Edison Elementary School in Fraser.

Todd, KG8BW, an employee of the County Clerk office presented a request for USECA involvement in the Macomb County Election Net. Todd would like club members to volunteer to go to

precincts and radio the election results to a net control. This would be in lieu of the usual telephone result reporting. Todd has already approached L'Anse Creuse and they have agreed to participate in the project. The goal is to gather 110 volunteers. It was mentioned that election night is the same night as the November, 1997 USECA general membership meeting. A motion was made by Jim, N8OKW, seconded by Floyd, W8RO, and passed to participate in the election net and to give Todd a set of preprinted USECA mailing labels to send all pertinent information to our members.

The USECA election will be held at the December, 1997 meeting. Nominations will be opened at the November, 1997 meeting and will be printed in the December, 1997 Express.

Dave, W8VB, indicated that the Net Manager, Bill, K8WI, has resigned and we are looking for a new Net Manager.

Discussion ensued regarding the Riley Center repeater which has ceased operations. In the future if Hank Kohl, K8DD, expresses an interest in reactivating the repeater, USECA will discuss offering their assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 P.M.

Respectively submitted,
Debbi Cokewell, KB8YYB, Recording Secretary

USECA General Meeting Minutes—October 14, 1997

In attendance:

- KB8YYC Dennis President
- W8VB Dave Vice-President
- KB8YYB Debbi Recording Secretary
- KI8CB Mark Membership Secretary
- N8OKW Jim Treasurer
- KG8IF Ann Board Member
- KB8QMS Nancy Board Member
- N8TMJ Marianne Board Member
- W8RO Floyd Past President
- *K8CFY Jerry Historian
- K8OEF Joe Express Editor
- KC8EZU Chris Swap Chairman
- KG8IE Scott Field Day Chairman
- N8KND Doug Repeater Technician
- *Absent

The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:40 P.M.

New upgrades were recognized.

A motion was made by Gerald, KC8FYQ, seconded by Jerry, KB8TAS, and passed to accept the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Express.

A motion was made by Chris, KC8EZU, seconded by Jim, W1IK and passed to accept the Treasurers report as presented.

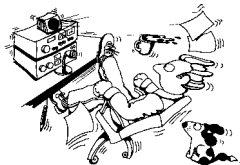
Membership: Current paid membership is in excess of 220.

Repeater: Doug, N8KND, presented details on the recently blown power supply, which was probably caused by thermal overload. He also informed the membership that there is a repeater power amplifier for sale for \$500.00. Doug recommends this as a good purchase for our club so we have a back up or a source for parts.

Express: Joe, K8OEF, will be accepting articles for the next Express.

ARRL: Dave, W8VB, suggested that members check the ARRL Web Page for timely news bulletins.

—Continued on Page 14



ARE YOU LISTENING?

If you are not involved in 6-meter DXing, the frequency of 28.885 will mean little to you. If you are a 50 MHz or higher DX chaser, then you already have an auxiliary receiver monitoring .885 night and day.

For years, 28.885 has been the defacto "6 Meter DX Alert" channel. The simple theory behind its use is that if the MUF is up above 50 MHz, it definitely (most times) has affected 29 MHz in the same way. While primarily for 6 meter addicts, .885 also boasts announcements of DX opening on 2 meters and above. Simply said, it's the place to be listing.

—Worldradio, October 1997

FCC CONSUMER LINE

The FCC's consumer assistance number in Gettysburg, 800/322-1117, is being discontinued. All calls now should go to the new toll-free number, 888-CALLFCC (888-225-5322). For the time being, calls to 800-322-1117 will ring over to the new number after a little message that informs the caller of the change.

—Worldradio, October 1977, ARRL, FCC

Repeater Death—Continued from Page 1

It is unknown at this time, but doubtful, if it will return to the air from that site.

Update.

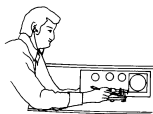
The K8DD/r 147.300 repeater will NOT return to the air as a wide coverage repeater. To keep the coordination it may, within 6 months, return as a low profile repeater. I feel bad that the Thumb & Mid-Michigan Traffic Net (a part of the National Traffic System) will probably not be able to meet on a repeater that covers St. Clair, Lapeer, Sanilac and surrounding counties. But I also feel bad that this has happened in a hobby that I have enjoyed and cherished for almost 40 years. It has taken something away from me that can not ever be replaced.

[This is a terrible, terrible thing to happen in the amateur radio community; how much lower will people go?—Ed.]

Azden Leaving the US Ham Radio Market

A player in the US ham radio market since the 1970s, Azden is leaving the Amateur Radio business in this country as of August 31. A letter from Azden's Lew Reinberg, W2BIE, cited "the worldwide decline of the business" as the reason for the move.

"We entered the US market through this office very late in the game and with older product," Reinberg's letter states. "The lack of growth of the end-user base made it impossible for us to spend the huge amount of capital necessary to design and tool up for a more advanced model."



Azden's pullout applies only to the US market. Azden Vice President Ken

Bush said this week that Azden radios continue to be sold in Japan.

Among Azden's product lineup were similar FM mobile transceivers for several bands. The company also marketed some H-Ts and a headset. The company's remaining ham radio inventory has been sold to Amateur Electronic Supply.

Reinberg said that while Azden will stop selling ham radio gear in the US the company will continue to repair its radios at its Franklin Square, New York, headquarters "for the foreseeable future." Parts and manuals for Azden gear will continue to be available as well.

Sid Wolin, K2LJH, manager of Azden's Communications Division, reportedly plans to retire. Reinberg says he will remain at Azden's Franklin Square office to handle customer questions and process service and repair orders.

—The GCARC Wireless, September 1977

1998 DUES!

Get your 1998 Dues in *NOW* and avoid the rush in December!

Show your support of USECA by being the first to renew for 1998!

Your dues should be paid in full for 1998 by December 31, 1997.

—Ken, KF8RG

GATE 3 CALL SIGNS

Get ready to remember another batch of new call signs. Six weeks to the day after the opening of Gate 3, the FCC began processing vanity call sign applications. FCC personnel in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, had spent much of the intervening time clearing out a backlog of vanity applications filed prior to the Gate 3 opening and matching up payments with electronic applications. On Wednesday, September 17, the FCC issued some 500 to 600 vanity call signs to those who had filed applications on August 6, the opening day.

Judging from the call signs turning up on the FCC database, some Advanced class hams took advantage of Gate 3 to obtain Group C call signs where the suffix comprised either a first name (we spotted a Joe, a Don, a Ken, a Bob and a Gay, for example) or a set of initials. Perhaps apropos of his QTH, Gene Uliasz of Gun Barrel City, Texas, used Gate 3 to turn KC4WA into K5TNT. Formerly KF6CG, Georgia A. Lawrence of Manhattan Beach, California, obtained K6GAL. Other applicants obtained new Group B call signs, sometimes trading one 2x2 in for another. For example, Karl Mortensen of Wakefield, Rhode Island, swapped KE1FK for KA1RL. Still others went for the snappy suffix. Charles Pharis of Kagel Cyn, California, turned in KK6NE for KA6USA. Michael Amaral of Walpole, Massachusetts, gave up W1IDP to obtain WA1AW. Along the same lines, Michael Esposito of Germantown, Tennessee, swapped WA2VXV for WA2AW. Yvonne Lane of Kingwood, Texas, gave up KF5MY for W5XYL.

A few, like West Gulf Director Jim Haynie, just shortened the prefix. Haynie went from WB5JBP to W5JBP. Others went for one appropriate for their QTH. Teriann Miner of Palmer, Alaska, turned in her lower-48 call sign, KG0OY, for KL7AT. The Iowa DX and Contest Club got WI0WA.

In all, it appears that the FCC received more than 1000 vanity call sign applications on August 6. Because earlier gates remain open, it's impossible to get an accurate count of applications filed solely under Gate 3, however. The FCC still has not indicated when it plans to open Gate 4, which will make the vanity call sign program available to General, Tech Plus, Technician and Novice licensees.

—ARRL

"Nothing Heard"

JAMMERS!

Authorities in Elkhart, Indiana, report they know who planted repeater jamming devices in the area--including a couple inside beach balls, but they can't do anything about it--even though the two people responsible have admitted it to police. That's because the local authorities have no jurisdiction in the case, which involves federal law.

The local sheriff's department declined to identify the suspects other than to say that neither are licensed amateurs and that one of them is female. Mike McCauley, KB9GNU, the Public Information Officer for Elkhart County Department of Emergency Management, told Amateur Radio Newsline that not all of the devices were hidden in beach balls. McCauley says that a number of the jamming units were literally sold into the homes of the general public.

One was even equipped with a seismic detector that would turn the unit off when a direction-finding team came within about 30 feet of it. Another one was put inside a brand-new TV set that had been returned to a department store then resold.

Word is that the pair involved simply do not like ham radio and appear to have a personal vendetta against hams. Local authorities have reportedly asked the FCC to investigate.

—ARRL

WHERE'S THE SWAPS?

Day	Month	Date	Where*
S, S	NOV	15-16	Fort Wayne, IN
SUN	DEC	7	Hazel Park
F, S, S	MAY	15-17	Dayton, OH

*Michigan unless otherwise noted.

Source: QRV Bulletin



General Meeting Minutes—Continued from Page 11

Net Manager: Dennis, KB8YYC, recapitulated that we have a new Net Manager, Dave, KC8IAQ. Please give your support and cooperation to Dave.

Testing: Dennis, KB8YYC, encapsulated current testing information. Testing will continue to be the first Saturday of each month at the Salvation Army in Mt. Clemens. Testing at the USECA Swap will commence at 8:00 A.M.

Apparel: In Richard's, KB8WTH, absence, Peggy, KC8IAO, is taking orders for apparel. Make sure to order your official USECA apparel by November 1, 1997 to insure delivery in time for Christmas.

Hosts: Thanks to this month's host, Richard, K8QLM, and Janice, KC8HMG. The hosts for next month will be Peggy, KC8IAO, and Denise, KC8IPF.

Old Business:

Field Day: Scott, KG8IE, announced the results are in! USECA placed:

1st in Class 1st in Michigan
1st in the Great Lakes 5th overall

We were the only battery operated Field Day set up in the top ten. Congratulations to all who participated.

Swap: Chris, KC8EZU, apprised the membership that 70% of the tables in the main room have been sold. Look for an announcement about our Swap in the November, 1997 QST. The Canteen will be located in front of the Swap site for use as the talk-in. Gerald, KC8FYQ, is organizing a parking lot corp to assist people with the transportation of large and heavy purchases to their cars. He is looking for volunteers. Chris needs multiple plug extension cords to run power to the center section of the room. The VE's need help to set up the testing room. There will be a limited set up Saturday night about 7:00 P.M. Sunday morning, Vendors only will be admitted from 6:00-8:00 A.M., doors will open to the public at 8:00 A.M.

Christmas Party: Ann, KG8IF, edified plans for the 1997 Christmas Party. It will be held on Saturday, December 13, 1997 at Garwood's, at a cost of \$15.00 per person. Further information can be obtained from Ann, KG8IF.

Jim, N8OKW, is seeking volunteers to aid with the Thumbs Up Rally on Saturday, November 8, 1997. There are 30 checkpoints to be manned, please see Jim.

New Business:

The Net Point Awards were presented.

A motion was made by Jerry, KB8TAS, seconded by Dave, WN8VOT, and passed to purchase the aforementioned repeater power amplifier.

Dennis, KB8YYC, blazoned that nominations for the December, 1997 election will be open at the November, 1997 meeting. The nominating committee will consist of Past Presidents; Walt, WB8E, Earl, N8OEX, Floyd, W8RO, Betty, N8LXL.

Todd, KG8BW, presented information on the proposed Macomb County election net. Election results would be radioed in to net control from the various polling places by volunteer radio operators.

Jim, W1IK, is seeking volunteers to assist in running the Slow Code Net on Monday evenings.

Tonight's program will be on Grounding presented by Dave, W8VB.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbi Cokewell, KB8YYB, Recording Secretary

Grounding—Continued from Page 6

'other path' is the user, then the safety ground scheme has not succeeded.

Most electrical installations try to minimize this by using large size conduit and, sometimes, by using an ohmmeter to look at the resistance to ground while the building is being constructed.

It should be stressed that the quality of ground at any particular point in a building, compared to some other point in the building can be dramatically better or worse. The quality of ground at any particular point depends on:

(1) the size or thickness of the conduit used. (Thicker conduit has less resistance.)

(2) the type of the joints, elbows and other connectors used with the conduit.

Screwed-together or welded joints are far superior to the more common "single-screw" joints simply because they have lower resistance and greater reliability.

(3) the quality of the workmanship when installing conduit.

Even the best materials can be compromised by shoddy workmanship.

(4) the quality and reliability of the central ground point to which the building is attached.

Rusted or abused grounding rods, dependence on cold-water pipes chosen without regard to their actual ground potential, and high resistance connections to the building interior can render a ground system next-to-useless.

7. Other Types of Ground

There are certain installations where running copper pipes or rods is not possible—planes, boats and cars are good examples. In those cases, a certain point is designated as the lowest potential point and everything to be grounded is attached to it. It is most often the negative terminal of the battery. Because there are many wires running to that point, often the metal of the car is used and that negative battery terminal is merely attached to the body of the car. Then ground can be established by simply connecting to the body of the car anywhere else.

However, the steel used in cars (or planes or boats) is not a very good conductor. The resistive difference between one point and another can mean that there will be voltage differences between these two points. For lights and other non-signal uses, this is a minor problem. For radios, CD players, and microprocessor-controlled subsystems and other signal devices, this can generate voltage (and noise) in these devices, reducing their performance or rendering them useless.

Nothing will be as effective as establishing and connecting all your ground to the actual point chosen. However, as car battery voltages are low, there are fewer safety issues involved.

—Submitted by Dave, W8VB

USECA APPLICATION



DATE _____ NEW RENEWAL NEWSLETTER ONLY
 CALL _____ CLASS _____ AUTO-PATCH _____
 NAME _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 TELEPHONE # _____ PRINT IN ROSTER: YES NO
 BIRTHDATE _____ Copy of Current License for USECA File
 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 (Includes Newsletter) Regular: \$20 — Family: \$30

Newsletter (Only): \$8 — Auto-Patch: \$35 (One Time Fee) + Annual Dues

Applications can be given to the Membership Secretary at monthly meeting or mailed.

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: USECA Address: P.O. BOX 1222, STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 48311-1222

2-METER LANs

LOCAL AREA NETS

DAY	TIME	CLUB	FREQ.
SUN	1:00 pm	USECA/Information	147.180
SUN	8:00 pm	SPIRIT of '76/Traders	146.760
SUN	9:00 pm	HPARC/DART	146.640
SUN	9:00 pm	Garden City ARC	146.860
MON	8:00 pm	MECA	147.200
MON	9:00 pm	USECA/Slow Code	147.180
TUE	8:00 pm	USECA/Information	147.180
TUE	8:00 pm	SEMARA	146.740
WED	8:00 pm	GMARC	146.700
WED	8:00 pm	SPIRIT of '76/Info/Traders	146.760
WED	8:00 pm	SMART/ARPSC	147.140
WED	9:00 pm	MICHIGAN QRP	145.170
THU	7:00 pm	HPARC/Kids	146.640
THU	8:00 pm	EDISON/Information	145.330
THU	9:00 pm	ECHO	147.080
FRI	Midnite	USECA/Hootowl	147.180

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

<http://www.rust.net/~dkaherl/useca.htm>

NET OPS SCHEDULES

2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM	TUES. 8 PM	FRI. MIDNIGHT
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
1	KG8IF	K8QLM	-OPEN-
2	WN8VOT	N8LXL	KB8TAS
3	K8QLM	KI8CB	-OPEN-
4	N8OKW	WB8E	-OPEN-
5	KG8WG	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

CW NETS

	THURS. 9 PM	FRI. 10 PM
WEEK	21.140 MHz	21.140 MHz
1	-OPEN-	W8VRW
2	-OPEN-	-OPEN-
3	-OPEN-	W8IC
4	-OPEN-	N8MOJ
5	-OPEN-	W8VIJ

NCO's—If you are unable to take your net, please get a replacement or contact Dave, KC8IAQ.

10 Meter Phone Net

The 10 meter phone net—before the Hoot Owl Net—will be on Fridays at 11:00 p.m. on 28.425 MHz.