

USECA EXPRESS

volume 3 no.9

OCTOBER 1988

The OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the UTICA-SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ASSN. of MACOMBE COUNTY, MI. WA8Z RPTR-147.187.78 located near Cass & Mound Rd, UTICA, MI. with satellite room at Selfridge ANG Base. Club meetings held on 2nd Tuesday of month, 7:30 PM at CHURCH OF GOD corner of CANAL & ROMEO PLANK RD, CLINTON TWP. Items for publication must reach the editor no later than 3rd Thursday of month, which is one day following the night of the BOARD MTNG. EDITOR: JERRY MCGINN, K8CFY, 20216 MCKISHNIE, MT. CLEMENS, MI. 48043 791-4484

EDITORIAL...

Well I am sure most all of you know by now about our wonderful new meeting place. For those that do not, it is at the CHURCH OF GOD, located on the corner of Romeo Plank and Canal Road. From the north, on Garfield, Canal is the first traffic light south of 19 mile rd., so you would turn left (East). Or also, from Hall rd. just come down Romeo Plank. From Mt. Clemens, take Cass west to Romeo Plank, turn left. Better yet take Cass to Clinton River Rd., left to Canal, turn right, go to Romeo Plank. Got that Walt? o.k. ...let's see a big turn out there!

In other recent news, we had a big bash at my place - Shamrock Acres - Sunday after the L'anse Creuse swap, and I want to thank all (about 50) that attended. I'm sorry you missed the ice cream and cake and watermelon, but hey... what do I know about hosting? Y'all come back now, anytime.

.....Once again, the U.S.E.C.A. volunteers did a bang up job (and enjoyed themselves) at the Classic and exotic Car show held at the knights of Columbus park, 21 Mile and Van Dyke. Sorry I missed it. Always lots of good Photo potential at these affairs.

.....Now that fall is here, there is still good time to get those antennae into good shape for winter. 160 Mtr. is starting to settle down so I can seriously think about getting active again. Another year gone by and still no HF beam. Will I ever get that GEM QUAD up? Well, small miracles do happen... after all, I did get the garage cleaned didn't I?

OK- SO WE HAD A GOOD SUMMER, now let's all settle into a nice season of fine club meetings, keep up our public image, continue our public service work, support and help each other... in other words, enjoy our hobby.

Don't be afraid to stuff my mailbox with comments, suggestions, articles, building projects, etc. 73, K8CFY

U.S.E.C.A. JACKETS

U.S.E.C.A. CLUB JACKETS are being ordered thru John, N8FNO- color will be RED with Navy lettering on White. The cost will be \$63.00 plus \$.55 for each call letter. Jacket cost must be paid before they can be picked up. For further info or to order call John... 264-7993

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome the following people that help to swell our ever growing group:

N8JFQ	Steve Grevemeyer
N8JEX	Richard Murawsky
K88FIT	Dennis Doebler
W8NSF	TOM Williams

COSTS OF ILLITERACY

EACH YEAR...

Welfare & Unemployment.....	\$ 6 Billion
Incarceration of 750,000 illiterates.....	\$ 6.6 Billion
Unrealized Earnings.....	\$237 Billion
Since 1964...	
Job Trng for Unskilled Youth...	\$ 65 Billion
<u>U.S. News and World Report</u>	
May 17, 1982	
<u>In Business & Industry...</u>	
Basic skills Trng for 15 U.S. Companies.....	\$ 3.4 Million
By Type of Industry	% of Trng Budget;
WHOLESALE.....	4%
Communication/	
Utilities.....	5%
Financial Institution.....	67%
Health Institutions.....	70%

Minutes Of U.S.E.C.A. Meeting Sept.13,1988

- WA8Z Opened meeting at 7:35.
K8VDA Motioned supported by N8GMA that minutes of last meeting be accepted. Motion carried.
N8FNO Gave Financial report. Stated that field day expenses were \$909.00.
WB8F Motioned supported by WI8L that financial report be accepted. Carried.
WB8G Reported that the repeater will be taken off the air for about a week for repairs. Not sure at this time what week it will be done.
WA8Z Asked for volunteers to help out for the auto show.
WB8E Walt gave some suggestions for next field which included pig roast, pizza, separate porta-john for ladies, and most importantly, that each member sell one book of tickets each month to cover expenses for the event.
KE8LT Gave report on the up coming swap. WB8F will be selling tower tickets, WD8IWE will take care of raffle tickets. Volunteers for K.P. were Walt, Don, Dwayne, Amy, and me. About 8 people will be needed to set up and clean up. All those working the swap will be meeting at Sweden House for dinner at own expense after swap.
WB8F Motioned supported by KA8YOJ that W8NSF consult with his church board regarding our future club meetings being held at his church.
WA8Z Break for coffee at 8:25.
WA8Z Reopened at 8:45.
60/40 drawing was won on ticket #3974. Amount was \$57.00
NW8M Won the club drawing of \$21.00. Congratulations to both winners.
W8NSF Tom gave some great information on getting the best results working mobile low band operation. He probably does better in his car than a lot of us from base stations. Thanks Tom for a very interesting discussion. Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted
WB8ITJ Secretary

Jack

146.76 EMERGENCY AUTO DIAL LIST

910	TIME OF DAY
911	DETROIT POLICE
912	MICHIGAN STATE POLICE
913	COAST GAURD
914	STATE POLICE HOT LINE (DRUNK DRIVER)
915	LIVONIA POLICE
916	REDFORD POLICE
917	ALLEN PARK POLICE
918	DEARBORN HTS. POLICE
919	DEARBORN POLICE
37	AUTO DIAL DIR. SERVICE 911-915
38	AUTO DIAL DIR. SERVICE 916-919
*5	TOUCH TONE TEST

USECA

Utica-Shelby
Emergency Communications Association

3rd ANNUAL HAMFEST
Sunday October 30, 1988
8 AM - 2:30 PM

FUN-FOOD-FELLOWSHIP

1st Prize \$300.00
2nd Prize \$200.00
3rd Prize \$100.00
Plus Hourly Drawings

For Info On License Exams, Contact:
NBZR, Steve, 45413 Utica Green West
Utica, MI 48087 (313) 254-4538

Eisenhower High School 6500 25 Mile
5 Miles North of Utica
1/2 mile West of Van Dyke
Talk-In On WA8Z Repeater, 147.18+

Tables: \$1.00 Per Foot
Trunk Sales: \$4.00, Weather Permitting
Tickets \$2.00 - Advance \$3.00 - Door

For Tables and Reservations SASE:
KE8LT, Harold Henry
53062 Tundra Dr.
Rochester, MI 48064 (313) 651-3279

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ALARMS

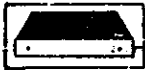
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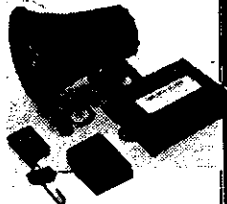
CODE-ALARM \$429.95

Warranty on Parts Lifetime TRX-757SD

Ins. Discount
 2 Hour Installation Time

Features Include:

- Scan Deterrent • Self Diagnostics • Passive or Manual Arming • Valet • 30 Amp Starter Kill Relay • Flashing LED Armed Indicator • Exit Monitor • Selectable Audio Arm Indicator • Door Lock Output (may require PLM-1) • Door Unlock Output (may require PLM-1) • Trunk Release Output • Remote Panic • (1)-Positive Inputs • (3)-Negative Inputs • FCC Approval • Last Door Arm/Exit Monitor • 125 dB, 35 Watt Electronic Siren • Operating Frequency 312 MHz • Standby Current Drain .01 Amps • Dome Light Supervision • SS-1 Shock Sensor



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BEL VECTOR 876.....	\$114.95
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POLICE SCANNER GUIDE
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 SR 314 \$79.95**

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 5 1/4 KIT
DIGITAL



AM/FM STEREO CASSETTE

•Fast forward •Clock •Memory •Seek •Loudness •10 watts
 •80-17,000Hz frequency response

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 XR-6100**



W/ 5 1/4" SPEAKERS

Auto Reverse AM/FM Cassette Receiver

•X-tal Lock PLL quartz frequency synthesis tuner •12 FM GAM memory preset tuning •Seek/manual tuning •Mono/stereo switch •Dolby switch •Metal tape selector •6 W (Max) RMS power output w/taper •Separate bass & treble controls •Multi-function negative LC display w/quartz clock •Full night illumination

BLAUPUNKT Seattle SQR 27

\$186.95
 W/ 5 1/4" SPEAKERS

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BLAUPUNKT Denver SQR 26

\$219.95
 WITH 5 1/4" SPEAKERS

• Auto reverse cassette receiver • AM/FM stereo • ORC tuning • 6 x 2 preset tuning • Local/distant attenuation • HP tape head • Separate bass & treble • Fader • DNR • Automatic loudness • LED display • Manual & seek tuning • ASU impulse noise quieting • Clock • Snap in DIN • ARI equipped

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 NEW OR USED RADIO 5 1/4" KIT

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K40

Free NOVICE CLASS

The L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club presents the Free Novice Classes again for the 27th year. Everyone invited. We use ARRL's Tune In The World. Either buy your own copy or get one at the first meeting. You need not preregister, just show up at the first meeting.

Place; Here at L'Anse Creuse High School in
Room 109

Time: 7:30 first night. Then 7 to 9 each Thursday
after the first night.

When: Every Thursday beginning October 6 until
the first week in December.

Tear off the bottom of this sheet and give to a club member. Keep the top for your records...

Yes, I want to take part in the free Novice Class.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



AMATEUR RADIO: Back Up For Police

by Bill Clede, Technical Editor

Hurricane Gloria in 1985 hit the eastern coastline hard. The storm wasn't quite so bad by the time it reached Newington, Connecticut but it was enough to knock out all electrical power. Some residents were without power for four days.

The Town Hall lost power, and even the telephone switchboard went down. The storm command center moved to the Police Department which was operating on an emergency generator. But the Police Department lost telephone service, too. Amateur radio operators quickly responded to coordinate storm reports and to back-up the overloaded police radio system.

It was a routine operation for police and the "hams." They had practiced such a scenario many times.

The Newington Amateur Radio League, an affiliate club of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) which happens to be headquartered in Newington, has worked with its local police department for a decade.

It was in January, 1983 that Chief Thomas G. Ganley decided to put amateur radio to a real test. A simulated loss of the police communications system was planned—and the hams responded.

At 1000, the police radio was shut down. Hams were assigned to the police dispatch center. Other hams were dispatched with each patrol car. The rest of that shift, until 1525, was served exclusively by amateur radio.

The hams compared their 145 and 220 MHz bands with the police 460 MHz frequency and discovered communications were better on the amateur 220 band than on the police 460 band. That's one advantage of being able to operate on

different frequency bands. You can choose the one that best meets the need.

Hams have to be part of any such emergency operation requiring extra communications. Under Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations, only licensed Amateur Radio Operators may operate on amateur frequencies.

Actually, a licensed amateur may act as a control operator. Newington dispatcher Paul Jensen and the officers on duty could talk on the amateur radio but the control operator must be on the premises.

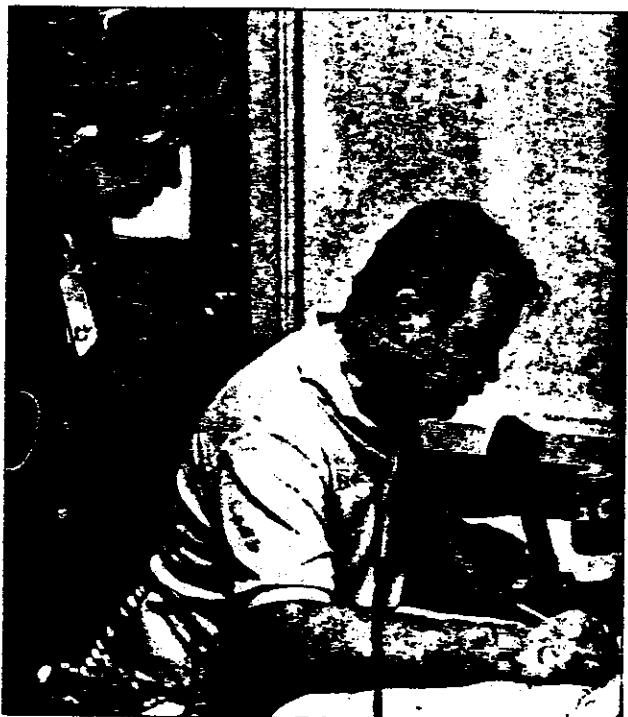
"The drill went smoothly," Chief Ganley recalled. So smoothly that volunteer amateurs are now issued photo identification cards under a formal agreement establishing them as the official backup communications group for the town's police department.

Amateur Accommodations

When the department modernized its communications system and dispatch center, an extra operating position with its own radio was provided in the police console strictly for an amateur. An amateur antenna also joined other antennas on the radio tower. Now, hams need only get themselves there, they don't have to bring radio equipment along.

Amateur Radio is not the same as Citizen's Band. Amateurs are permitted up to 1,000 watts of output power on a range of frequency bands—that work in an extended local area to literally around the world.

Obviously, hams use the band and power level that best serves the situation, in most cases a local FM repeater operating around 146 or 220 MHz. CB's are limited to five watts of AM output in the area of 27 MHz and repeaters aren't allowed. Amateurs must pass examination by the FCC to get their licenses. There is no licensing of CB's. While CB clubs in



Amateur Bob Anderson, WA1VLX, operates the amateur radio set up at the Newington Police Department's amateur radio emergency communications set up. His wife, Bernice, KA1BRD, public service coordinator, looks on.

some areas may be a help to local law enforcement, the capabilities of amateur radio far exceed those of CB.

One example of how amateurs are sometimes put to the test happened on October 3, 1979. At about 1500, a tornado touched down in Poquonock, a section of Windsor, Connecticut, and cut a 1/2-mile wide swath three miles long—right to the door of the terminal building at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks.

The terminal is where the National Weather Service office is located, with communications systems to its radar site, NOAA Weather Radio and the State Office of Civil Preparedness. They were suddenly deaf and mute. Even the terminal's emergency generator went down shortly after it was triggered on.

Former Windsor police chief, Maxie Patterson, sent a car into the area to find out the extent of the problem. Then another. Then he called the town civil preparedness director and said, "It's like a black hole up there. I've sent officers to investigate and hear nothing back." Without normal communications, officials literally didn't know what was going on.

The scene left officers speechless. They got out of their cars to help the injured. Houses were literally leveled. Some 52 homes were destroyed, 342 buildings damaged. Three people died and others suffered injuries or emotional trauma. A volunteer fireman happened to be a ham. He came up on a couple of area repeaters at about 1700 and reported the disaster, asking for hams to help. Some 125 amateurs checked in at the town's civil preparedness office by 2000. By the time the four-day operation was over, more than 500 amateurs had provided essential communications.

In this instance, the police radio system remained operational. But it was so overloaded it couldn't handle all of the necessary traffic. Hams were positioned at sensitive locations as observers. Search teams going in to find injured people each had a ham operator along to relay messages to the ambulance services.

Other hams were assigned to town officials who had business in the disaster area but are not normally in the town's communications system. When evaluation teams were sent in, they communicated by amateur radio.

There are incidents of amateur radio supplementing police emergency communications every month somewhere in the country. When an oil storage tank burst and dumped a million gallons of oil into the Monongahela River at Floeffe, Pennsylvania in January 1988, amateurs monitored the situation, checked that contingency plans were working, and relayed information to city and environmental officials.

In December 1987, the National Weather Service issued a tornado watch for eastern Arkansas. Hams trained as weather observers watched, too, and the first report of a tornado on the ground was relayed through the SKYWARN net. NWS radar had not detected the funnel but a warning was issued on the basis of the amateur report.

I recall an incident in Connecticut where radar indicated a warning should be issued. But an amateur on the scene reported high altitude activity with nothing affecting the ground. A needless warning was averted.

When Northwest Airlines flight 255 crashed at Detroit Metro, amateur radio responded and set up communications between the crash site and the emergency operating center. Hams also activated additional links on other repeaters to interconnect emergency services and to communicate among area hospitals.

indirectly," Chief Boyd explained. "By covering certain areas, we were able to better deploy police officers to higher-risk areas where the arrests were ultimately made."

There could be a question of using amateurs in the "business" of police operation. Ham radio is a hobby and FCC rules prohibit the conduct of business. You can't use amateurs to provide routine communications just because they work for nothing.

"I've talked with the FCC about this," Chief Boyd added. "It seems clear that where you have exhausted your resources but need more, it then becomes an 'emergency' situation where amateurs can help."

In Irvine, California, the city equipped a mobile communications van. It is set up and operated by the amateurs of the Irvine Disaster and Emergency Communications Group—even when amateur frequencies aren't being used.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department has a mobile command vehicle and found that amateurs are great help in setting up a command post and getting it operational. This is true even if it's for a SWAT operation where hams aren't directly involved in providing communications.

Emergency preparedness often falls to the police agency. Every city, county, and state must have a "disaster plan," and in California a required component is an interface with amateur radio.

"In southern California, it is not unusual for agencies to sponsor and maintain amateur repeaters," Chief Boyd said. "In Coronado, we maintain two-meter and 220 repeaters that can be linked together when needed by our amateur group."

Emergency preparedness officials are trained by the California Specialized Training Institute. One of the courses in the curriculum is "The Role of Amateur Radio."

There is an effort in California to promote the amateur radio hobby among interested officers in police and fire departments. Frankly, that's where many police and fire communications people originally come from, the ranks of radio amateurs.

With the broad capabilities of amateur radio, voice and emergency communications networks are just a basic beginning. One of the largest special events in the country is the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, California. In addition to providing supplemental communications for the Pasadena Police and supporting

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, hams use Amateur Television (ATV) to feed live video back to parade officials.

San Diego County is setting up a countywide ATV system where an amateur, with a video camera and transmitter, will be put into a Sheriff's Department helicopter to feed live video back to the Emergency Operating Center (EOC). They'll be able to cover any scene: disaster, riot, or traffic jam.

There will soon be a countywide Amateur Packet Radio system. In Connecticut, the State Office of Civil Preparedness (OCP) is also setting up a packet system between the state EOC and area OCP headquarters.

Packet is a computer communications system where messages are sent directly from one computer to another by radio, or routed through intermediate digipeeters (digital repeaters) to reach a distant station. Complicated instructions or casualty lists, things that take forever to transmit by voice, can be sent surely, quickly and accurately by computer.

With all this talk of high technology and complex capabilities, don't lose sight of the fact that amateur radio aiding law

enforcement can be as simple as a "Goblin Patrol."

Chief Ganley in Newington has what he calls "a number one deterrent" to crime on Halloween, and it costs the town nothing. You know how busy that night can be. The normal minimum staff patrol is hard pressed to handle the flood of minor complaints. So Ganley calls in a dozen radio amateurs in their radio-equipped private cars, puts an auxiliary police officer with each amateur, and triples his patrol.

"I think it's great," Ganley said. "I can use all the help I can get on that night." L&O

The ARRL can send you brochures on amateur radio emergency communications, but you should make contact with the Amateur Emergency Coordinator in your area. He has probably knocked on your door before, but if you don't know who he is, contact:

Luck Hurder, Dep. Mgr.
Field Services Dept.
American Radio Relay League
225 Main Street
Newington CT 06111
203 666-1541



When the Pope visited San Antonio, hams set up five voice and two data channels to handle the expected overflow of message traffic. By mid-afternoon it became obvious the plan for handling missing and displaced persons was inadequate. The hams started another radio net on a different frequency.

We could fill this magazine with stories of amateur public service in disasters, storms, train and plane wrecks, fires, floods, chemical spills—all sorts of incidents that tax a communications system. But hams can provide more than just communications, and their communications can be a lot more than just voice.

Police Chief Jerry Boyd of the Coronado, California Police Department is a ham (KG6LF). He is also chairman of the ARRL's National Emergency Response Committee. He interfaces amateur radio with police service in all of the usual ways: disasters, parades, lost child searches, special events—and has used them for fire watch as well.

"We had a major fire about four years ago," he said. "We deployed the hams and they spotted roof fires as much as a mile away and called them in so they

could be doused before they took hold. The amateurs prevented what easily could have become a fire storm."

Talking about fires, the California Division of Forestry makes statewide use of amateurs. "Under Volunteers in Prevention, amateurs are activated by the Division of Forestry and go out on Red Flag patrol. They patrol high risk fire areas simply to spot fires when they begin," Chief Boyd said. "God knows how many hundreds of thousands of acres have been saved under this program."

Boyd has also directly benefitted police operations by using amateurs. When Coronado was suffering a rash of burglaries, a special effort was set up to combat them. All available police personnel were deployed, but that left many holes in the plan. Amateurs were assigned, two to a private car that wasn't obviously "police," to patrol designated areas and watch for certain vehicles suspected of being used by the burglars. The hams served as eyes only, reporting their observations back to the police dispatcher.

"While they did not lead directly to an arrest, I think they did contribute

NOVEMBER 6, 1988

OAK PARK

AMATEUR

BECOMING
THE
BIGGEST
IN
MICHIGAN



- * CONTESTS
- * DEMONSTRATIONS
- * 325 TABLES
- * F.C.C. INFO
- * GOOD FOOD
- * ARRL SANCTIONED

SWAPNISHOP

8 AM TO 4 PM - NEW LARGER CARPETED LOCATION
SOUTHFIELD CIVIC CENTER AND CONVENTION PAVILION - 30,000 SQ. FT.
EVERGREEN RD. BETWEEN 10 AND 11 MILE RDS.
SOUTHFIELD, MICH. - JUST NORTH OF DETROIT

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| * 2nd YR. IN NEW LOCATION | * COMPUTER DEALERS | * VE3'S ADMITTED AT PAR |
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| * ALL INDOORS | * ANTIQUE RADIOS | * COME EARLY - STAY LATE |
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ALL PARKING FREE. Admission tickets \$4.00 ea. Kids under 12 free. Table reservations are required. First come, First served. 8ft. tables \$10.00 ea. Fire regulations limit table space. Allow 2 weeks to process reservations. Tables the day of the swap \$25 if available. Electricity is available within 50 ft. of all tables. Smoking in designated areas only. Table rental does not constitute admission. For reservation information see reverse side.



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