



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 22, Number 8, October 2006

USECA NEWS

SWAP! — SWAP!

Check-out the Swap Flyer on Page 3.

Morse Code Classes

have returned — Mondays at 9 p.m. on our repeater.

You're Invited!

Everyone is welcome to attend USECAs Board Meetings. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Elks Club in Mt. Clemens.

Eat B 4 U Meet

October's menu, and of course for a small nominal fee, we will serve Mr. Pita's and chips, starting at 6:00 PM.

Dennis

W8Dah Food Guy

[A blast from the past]

Be Prepared

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

The recent TV coverage of the hurricane savaged areas down south brought to mind the state of unpreparedness of the general population. I feel individuals are responsible for a plan to activate when danger threatens. Some people wait to be taken care of, while others move decisively to safety.

Most of you are probably familiar with the Boy Scout motto, "Be Prepared."

I have tried to apply that philosophy since my days as a scout until today. Working in the construction field for forty years, I learned to imagine the worse case scenarios and prepare for them.

The motto, "Be Prepared" should apply to the ham radio hobby as well. During emergencies, natural disasters, etc. many hams fill the communication void when other systems fail. These dedicated people train for emergencies and have the equipment to keep communications alive in areas that have become isolated. Usually during power outages, Amateur Radio is the most reliable if not the only means of communication.

We can be prepared for emergencies by a little forethought. Imagine the power is out; would you be able to open your electric garage door? Would you be able to keep your furnace running during cold weather? Those are only a couple things to think about. There are solutions to problems like these, but they are easier to come by before it becomes a necessity. Are the rechargeable batteries you have kept in a fully charged state? If you have a generator, do you have fuel for it?

Try thinking about all the bad things that could happen and then think about what you can do to prepare for them should they become real.

This area is not at risk from hurricanes, however we do get very destructive tornados. When you hear the warning, do you wait to see what happens, or make preparations in case of a close encounter?

The technical skill you have gained by becoming a ham can help you to manage emergency situations. Also, some of the equipment used in the hobby can be useful. 120 volts may be available from an inverter hooked up to 12-volt batteries. 2-meter radios are useful during severe storms or tornado warnings. I always listen to the weather nets and hear the reports of the volunteers that go out and monitor conditions. Weather information can be heard long before it is repeated on TV or commercial radio stations. If there was a tornado touchdown, you will get an early warning on 2 meters.

The annual ham field day is a demonstration of emergency preparedness. We should be prepared not only at the end of June, but continuously. Every year in some area struck with disaster, Amateur Radio answers the much asked question, "What good is it?"

Be Prepared.

Next Meeting — October 10

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President | Chuck Perushek/N8ZA (586) 557-4983 |
| Vice President | Brad Tarratt/N8VI (248) 506-7609 |
| Recording Secretary | Ann Manor/KT8F (586) 751-3893 |
| Treasurer | Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG (586) 465-7126 |
| Membership Secretary | Ken Cassale/KW8Z (586) 552-8311 |
| Board Member | Walt Gracey/WB8E (586) 777-2954 |
| Board Member | Phil Manor/W8IC (586) 751-3893 |
| Board Member | Joe Kennedy/N8OZ (586) 977-7222 |
| Past President | Jim Wickstrom/W11K (586) 771-4135 |

COMMITTEES

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ARRL Liaison | Bobby/N8CY (248) 879-7214 |
| Awards Manager | Chris/KV8Z |
| Door Prizes | —OPEN— |
| Editor | Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050 |
| Field Day Chair | Phil/W8IC & Ann/KT8F (586) 751-3893 |
| Health & Welfare | Walt/WB8E (586) 777-2954 |
| Historian | Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484 |
| Liaison | Dave/KC8TTO |
| Mails/Sorters | Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew |
| Net Manager | Brian/KC8DIR (586) 749-4561 |
| Photographer | —OPEN— |
| Program Director | Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609 |
| Public Relations Officer | Ken/N8KC (248) 652-1187 |
| Refreshments | Walt/WB8E; Richard/KC8HMJ |
| Repeater Trustee | Dennis/W8DFG (586) 465-7126 |
| Swap Director | Tom/KD8AVF (586) 651-7239; kd8avf@k8uo.com |
| Technical Director | Floyd/W8RO (248) 391-6660 |
| Technicians | W8IC; K8FT; WA8GQL; W11K; AD8S; N8SA |
| VE Testing | Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222 |
| Webmaster | Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609 |

CONTROL OPERATORS (*Phone Number Above)

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Dennis/W8DFG* | Joe/K8OEF* | Fred/W1SKU |
| Phil/W8IC* | Joe/N8OZ* | Chuck/N8ZA* |
| Jim/W11K* | Floyd/W8RO* | |

PROGRAMMERS

| | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------|
| Dennis/W8DFG | Jim/W11K | Brad/N8VI |
|--------------|----------|-----------|

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

Thank you to Dick, AF8X who provided the editorial staff with a CD of all his articles. They're a great help to use as "fillers" of which we had to use two of them in this edition.

The editorial staff is awaiting feedback from the readers regarding the article "Enough Already" on this page. Procrastination, yes; but as Bill, N8SA would say, "who cares."

Keep America, *American!*

Speaking of who cares, while I'm at it, I will always call it a Christmas tree; not a holiday tree. And, will wish everyone at the appropriate time a Merry Christmas. Baloney on what others want to change—the pen is mightier than the sword, so it is now in writing. If you don't like it, or it offends you, all I can say is "I'm sorry" and let it go at that.

All hams know swap attendance is down; and it's down everywhere. I wish our club can at least maintain the past success with present success. It's our largest fund raising event and it is extremely important to our club.

Speaking of the swap, I can't help repeating what Walt, WB8E said in a QSO with our swap chairman, he said, and I quote, "Sign me up for everything." Now, how many hams would say that?

73 for now.

Enough Already!

Joe, K8OEF

I've Had Enough! I can't stand it any longer and I'm going to get it off my chest now, before it's too late for America to stand up and be real Americans.

Recently on TV (CNN) the Glenn Beck program, he showed a video no other station would broadcast. A small town south of Los Angeles with a population of approximately 98% Mexicans protesting with huge signs for us white people to leave town and go back to Europe. Ok, they have their rights (do they?). But here was the frosting on the cake that put me over the edge . . . in front of the U.S. Post Office flies a Mexican flag. What the heck is this country coming to?

Sure, the politicians are ignoring everything about immigration. Why? It's election time and they evidently don't want to "rock the boat."

In this edition of the *Express* you can read two email articles I received on the Internet. I procrastinated quite

a bit whether this was the right place to "vent" my feelings. The entire editorial staff agreed—the newsletter had enough space. It has nothing to do with our radio hobby per se, but it is our U.S. Federal Government that gives us the authority and freedom to operate our radios on American frequencies—we follow their rules and regulations. What would happen if we start behaving like non-Americans?

I'm proud to be an American and will state over and over again . . . **God Bless America!**

OK, let 'er rip! If you have certain feelings or comments regarding this matter, please don't address them to our club—email them to me k8oef@k8uo.com and I'll try to get the editorial staff to print your comments (good, bad, or indifferent).

**21st Annual
Utica-Shelby Emergency
Communications Association**



HAMFEST



OCTOBER 29, 2006

Doors open 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**American Polish Century Club
33204 Maple Lane Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48312-6212
1 Mile East of M-53, Just North of 14 Mile Rd.**

**W5YI/VEC FCC Exams
Radio and Equipment Test Bench
New and Used Sales
Many Great Door Prizes
Hang out with other HAMS**

**Tables are \$15.00, 2nd for \$10.00
Admission is \$5.00 at the door
Contact Bob, KZ8N at (586) 716-9114
or Email: hamfest@k8uo.com**

Talk-in: USECA Repeater 147.180 – PL 100 Hz

USECA Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting—September 5, 2006

In attendance:

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| N8ZA, Chuck | President |
| N8VI, Brad | Vice-President |
| KT8F, Ann | Recording Secretary |
| KW8Z, Ken | Membership Secretary |
| W8DFG, Dennis | Treasurer |
| WB8E, Walt | Board Member |
| W8IC, Phil | Board Member |
| N8OZ, Joe | Board Member |
| W11K, Jim | Past President |



*Absent

Meeting called to order by the President at 7:35 PM.

Correspondence: Motion to accept the minutes of the last BOD meeting made by Brad, N8VI, and 2nd by Phil, W8IC, motion carried.

Treasurer's report provided by Dennis, W8DFG, motion to accept made by Jim, W11K, supported by Ann, KT8F, motion carried.

Membership: Ken, KW8Z reported 177 current members.

Webmaster: Brad, N8VI: 177 current members.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – no report.

Trustee: Dennis, W8DFG – MARC meeting coming up in September in Lansing.

Technical: Phil, W8IC – no report.

Field Day: Phil – provided stats for 2006 Field Day.

Swap: no report. Tickets have been printed. Discussion on incentives. Volunteers needed.

Health and Welfare: Walt stated cards have been mailed out.

Old business: none pending.

New Business

Joe, K8OEF – suggested that the repeater's voice DVR should have the club's name included as part of the repeater ID.

Dennis suggested that we consider changing the meeting night to Monday night, as we would have the Elk's club to ourselves.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by 2nd by Jim, W11K. Second by Brad, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Manor, KT8F, Recording Secretary

USECA . . . You bring me joy!

General Meeting—September 12, 2006

In attendance:

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| N8ZA, Chuck | President |
| N8VI, Brad | Vice-President |
| *KT8F, Ann | Recording Secretary |
| KW8Z, Ken | Membership Secretary |
| W8DFG, Dennis | Treasurer |
| WB8E, Walt | Board Member |
| W8IC, Phil | Board Member |
| N8OZ, Joe | Board Member |
| W11K, Jim | Past President |

*Absent

Meeting called to order by the President at: 7:30 PM.

Introductions, new members, visitors and upgrades recognized.

Motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Roger, KB8ULS, and 2nd by Doug, N8KDL, motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by Dennis, W8DFG. Included was a report on Field Day expenses. Motion to approve made by Steve, N8XO, supported by George, K8GEO, motion carried.

Membership report: Ken, KW8Z: - 180 members currently.

Website report: Brad, N8VI provided the report. Moved to high speed server. Let Brad know of any problems.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – no report. Articles are due on general meeting nights. You may submit articles to Joe via email if you prefer.

Technical report: provided by Floyd, W8RO. Repeater currently working ok, but work is ongoing to improve the voter operation.

ARRL: Bobby, N8CY. Notified members that the JOTA Boy Scout Jamboree will be held Saturday, October 21.

Trustee: Dennis, W8DFG – reported on the September MARC meeting. Also reminded members to wait before keying up.

Field Day report – Phil, W8IC gave the FD stats report.

Swap security: Tom, W8TRC needs volunteers – contact Tom at 586-876-0786.

Health & Welfare report: Walt, WB8E sent cards to several members.

Club Liaison report: George, K8GEO reported on several upcoming swaps. See list elsewhere in this Express.

Old Business

Jim, W11K reported that the Monday night CW classes started on 9/11/06. This is an 8-week course. The web site also has the live audio stream. You can also use the archives for practice. Jim requested more instructors to help out. Contact Jim at w11k@arrl.net.

New Business

Thanks to Kim, KD8CNU for the cider and pies she supplied.

—Continued on Page 6

A Tale of A Snake's Tail

By Paul Flowers

[This delightful tongue-in-cheek story appeared in the Illinois Central Magazine for February, 1944. It was reprinted in Dots & Dashes (publication of the Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.) Vol. 15, No. 1 Jan-Feb-March 1987, by permission of Ms. Virginia Anzelmo, of the Illinois Central Gulf News.]

Here is the tale of a rattlesnake that mastered the Morse code, back when telegraphy and pounding brass was a fine and noble profession. It was soon after I first went to work for the road with which I am still employed, the Illinois Central, than which there is none finer.

I was sent to Way, Miss. as night operator. The name was about all there was to the station, except a water tank and day and night telegraph operators. Way is back in the Big Black River bottoms, where the nights get the blackest, the bullfrogs croak the coarsest and the hoot owls hoot the loneliest of any spot in creation. It is only about 4 miles from Vaughan, where Casey Jones of song and fable pulled his last throttle some 40 years ago. My duties at Way consisted of reporting trains promptly and staying awake or vice-versa, and sometimes I dozed and as a consequence could not truthfully report that a string had gone by. When I failed to get enough rest during the day and was unusually sleepy when I came to work, I would find out when the next train was due to pass and then go out and pour a handful of cinders on the rails. If the passing train did not awaken me, when I did come to I could go out and see if the cinders were swept off, and if so, I knew the train had gone. This system had its disadvantages in bad weather.

I tried another old one, that of tying one end of a string to the coal scuttle in the office, stretching it across the track and tying the other to a stick. When the train came along, it hit the string and rattled the coal hod. This was not entirely

satisfactory either, because a wandering mule or cow was liable to come along before the train. But fortune brought a happy solution to my problem. One night as I sat reading a detective magazine and had just reached the point where the villain was about to push the heroine over the cliff, I happened to glance toward the door and was amazed to see a good-sized rattlesnake crawling in the door.

As it lay there on the floor, I noticed a marked resemblance to our porter, Leander, who was long and svelte too. Well, I sat there, paralyzed with fright while the snake coiled, moved his head from side to side like the pendulum on a grandfather clock, his beady, unblinking eyes taking in everything in the office. I had used all my snake medicine the night before, so I was just where Moses was.

All at once a complete calm came over me. I rose, strode boldly to where the snake was and poured some milk out of my lunch box kit into a fruit jar lid, and set it where the rattler could see it. He took the hint and lapped it up greedily. After he had finished the milk, we eyed each other for a moment, and seemed to reach a complete understanding.

I had a practice telegraph set in the back of my office, and I went over and began tapping out slowly the alphabet in Morse code. Leander, as I called my visitor, crawled onto the table and was all attention and most apt student I ever had. Soon as I would make a letter I'd pause, and he'd raise his tail and try to imitate the dots and dashes and spaces with his rattles. In an unusually short time he knew the entire alphabet. He had a little trouble with the letter "P" which consists of five dots. He seemed to lose control of his tail muscles on that one, and I thought he'd never quit making dots. But finally he mastered the "P" and his Morse was a joy to listen to. We spent many

otherwise lonely hours, I with brass key and sounder, tobacco can and all, and Leander with his natural sounder. He told me he was one of twenty children, but that his brothers and sisters had been drowned in a flood. Leander was a handy creature around the office; he could grab up a broom with his tail, hump his back, put his nose to the floor and do as good a sweeping job as you ever saw.

But the biggest lift he gave was in helping me report trains. As you know, a snake's tongue when extended from his mouth is sort of like a radio antenna. Leander would crawl on the telegraph table in the depot's bay window (still there), stick his head out, poke his tongue out some more and get the vibration of a train 35 miles away. Then he would come over to the table where I was sleeping, touch my face tenderly with that sensitive tongue of his and I knew it was time to rouse up and exchange signals with the train crew and report their passing.

All good things come to an end. I got word that I was to be transferred, so one evening, as Leander and I were having our little chat in Morse, broke the news to him gently as I knew how. I told him how much I had enjoyed knowing him and how much he had done to keep me from being lonely, in his cordial, ophidian way and I invited him to go with me to my next station.

But Leander, after thinking it over for a while, tapped out "No" and explained that Big Black River bottoms were his home, where all his folks had lived since the Ice Age, and he was considerable of a homebody, and didn't think he'd get adjusted to unfamiliar scenes. He thanked me for teaching him Morse, and we had a parting of the Way.

—Continued on Page 6

USECA Club Liaison

| MONTH | DATE | EVENT |
|-----------------------------------|------|--|
| OCT | 1 | Diabetes Walk —Stony Creek Metropark Annual Fundraiser for Diabetes Foundation. GMARC will be providing Emergency Communications. Volunteers needed beginning at 7:30 AM. Contact Bobby Corr, N8CY Phone: 248.346.2733 or via eMail: n8cy@gmarc.org |
| OCT | 8 | Crop Walk —Downtown Rochester, MI Multi-denomination Church Sponsored fundraiser for underprivileged. GMARC will be providing Emergency Communications. Volunteers needed beginning at 12:30 PM. Contact George Schutte, K8GEO Phone: 248.393.4030 or via eMail: k8geo@arri.net |
| OCT | 8 | Kalamazoo Hamfest —Kalamazoo ARC & Southwest Michigan AR Team Kalamazoo, MI Kalamazoo County Fair Grounds. "Exhibition Hall E" 2900 Lake Street http://www.kalamazoohamfest.com/ Talk-In: 147.640/147.040 (PL 94.8) Contact: Jim Simons, N8JH Phone: 269-388-4865 (voice mail) Email: info@kalamazoohamfest.com |
| OCT | 21 | JOTA —Jamboree on the Air, a co-adventure of ham radio and scouting (both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts) will be held on October 21; location to be determined. The call sign for this event will be K2BSA/8. Since there isn't any camporee going on at that time, I plan to have the event in a park with easy access for the participants. More to come on that. I'm always looking for HF rigs and antennas to use at these events. Volunteers will need to supply their own food and soft drinks. Contact: Allan KA8JJN Email: akoch31@comcast.net |
| OCT | 21 | Great Lakeshore Super Swap —Holland ARC Holland, MI Harbor Lights South Campus 3600 152nd Avenue http://www.hollandarc.org Talk-In: 147.060 (PL 94.8) Contact: Sue Seidelman, KC8RQS Phone: 616-394-9821 Email: swap@hollandarc.org |
| OCT | 22 | Blossomland Blast —Blossomland ARA Berrien Springs, MI St. Joe Kickers Sport Club M-139 at Linco Road http://www.blossomlandara.org Talk-In: 146.82(-) & 146.72(-) Contact: Gary Wallis, KB8VIM Phone: 269-429-3629 Email: w8mai@comcast.net |
| OCT | 29 | USECA Swap —Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association Sterling Heights, MI Polish-American Century Club 33204 Maple Lane Drive http://www.useca.net Talk-In: 147.180+ (PL 100 Hz) Contact: Bob Hollingsworth, KZ8N Phone: 586-716-9114 Email: hamfest@k8uo.com |
| <i>Submitted by David, KC8TTQ</i> | | |

Meeting Minutes—From Page 4

Dennis, W8DFG notified the members that the Algonac campout dates have been changed to the last weekend in September: Friday the 29th and Saturday the 30th if you wish to camp. Riverfront area. Day-trippers can visit on Saturday. If you wish to get in on the fish boil, the cost is \$10.00 per person, contact Dennis. Otherwise, bring your own dinner. Grills will be going if you need one.

Jim, W1IK – has a source for 30 amp Anderson power pole connectors. You can save about ½ the cost of swap prices. Contact Jim if interested.

Joe, K8OEF – thanks to those who reported on 145.530 NASA rebroadcast and also thanks to DATS (Detroit Amateur Television Society) for their efforts.

Program provided by Floyd, W8RO and Jim W1IK on cross-band repeating.

Meeting concluded at approximately 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Manor, W8IC, Acting Secretary

A Snake's Tail—From Page 5

As he slithered out he paused, looked back, transfixed me with those soulful and unblinking eyes and tapped out "73," which is the telegrapher's traditional symbol for good-by. I felt no shame as I stood there alone, with the shades of night falling fast, as tears trickled down my cheeks and Leander disappeared. He was a pal.

Newspapers simply won't publish letters to the editor which they either deem politically incorrect (read below) or which does not agree with the philosophy they're pushing on the public. This woman wrote a great letter to the editor that should have been published but with your help it will get published via cyberspace!

New Immigrants
From: "David LaBonte"

My wife, Rosemary, wrote a wonderful letter to the editor of the OC Register which, of course, was not printed. So, I decided to "print" it myself by sending it out on the Internet. Pass it along if you feel so inclined.

Dave LaBonte (signed)

Written in response to a series of letters to the editor in the Orange County Register:

Dear Editor:

So many letter writers have based their arguments on how this land is made up of immigrants. Ernie Lujan for one, suggests we should tear down the Statue of Liberty because the people now in question aren't being treated the same as those who passed through Ellis Island and other ports of entry.

Maybe we should turn to our history books and point out to people like Mr. Lujan why today's American is not willing to accept this new kind of immigrant any longer. Back in 1900 when there was a rush from all areas of Europe to come to the United States, people had to get off a ship and stand in a long line in New York and be documented. Some would even get down on their hands and knees and kiss the ground. They made a pledge to uphold the laws and support their new country in good and bad times. They made learning English a primary rule in their new American households and some even changed their names to blend in with their new home.

They had waved goodbye to their birthplace to give their children a

new life and did everything in their power to help their children assimilate into one culture.

Nothing was handed to them. No free lunches, no welfare, no labor laws to protect them. All they had were the skills and craftsmanship they had brought with them to trade for a future of prosperity. Most of their children came of age when World War II broke out. My father fought alongside men whose parents had come straight over from Germany, Italy, France and Japan. None of these 1st generation Americans ever gave any thought about what country their parents had come from. They were Americans fighting Hitler, Mussolini and the Emperor of Japan. They were defending the United States of America as one people. When we liberated France, no one in those villages was looking for the French-American or the German American or the Irish American. The people of France saw only Americans. And we carried one flag that represented one country.



Not one of those immigrant sons would have thought about picking up another country's flag and waving it to represent who they were. It would have been a disgrace to their parents who had sacrificed so much to be here. These immigrants truly knew what it meant to be an American. They stirred the melting pot into one red, white and blue bowl.

And here we are in 2006 with a new kind of immigrant who wants the same rights and privileges. Only they want to achieve it by playing with a different set of rules, one that includes the entitlement card and a guarantee of being faithful to their mother country. I'm sorry, that's not what being an American is all about. I believe that the immigrants who landed on Ellis Island in the early 1900's deserve better than that for all the toil, hard work and sacrifice in raising future generations to create a land that has be-

come a beacon for those legally searching for a better life. I think they would be appalled that they are being used as an example by those waving foreign country flags.

And for that suggestion about taking down the Statue of Liberty, it happens to mean a lot to the citizens who are voting on the immigration bill. I wouldn't start talking about dismantling the United States just yet.

(signed) Rosemary LaBonte

P.S. Pass this on to everyone you know! KEEP THIS LETTER MOVING!

I hope this letter gets read by millions of people all across the nation!

Ever onward!

MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA!

—Internet



WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO TURN ON THE TV AND HEAR ANY U.S. PRESIDENT, DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN GIVE THE FOLLOWING SPEECH?

My Fellow Americans: As you all know, the defeat of Iraq regime has been completed.

Since congress does not want to spend any more money on this war, our mission in Iraq is complete.

This morning I gave the order for a complete removal of all American forces from Iraq. This action will be complete within 30 days. It is now to begin the reckoning.

Before me, I have two lists. One list contains the names of countries that have stood by our side during the Iraq conflict. This list is short. The United Kingdom, Spain, Bulgaria, Australia, and Poland are some of the countries listed there.

The other list contains everyone not on the first list. Most of the world's nations are on that list. My press secretary will be distributing copies of both lists later this evening.

—Continued on Page 8

Great—From Page 7

Let me start by saying that effective immediately, foreign aid to those nations on List 2 ceases immediately and indefinitely. The money saved during the first year alone will pretty much pay for the costs of the Iraqi war.

The American people are no longer going to pour money into third world Hell-holes and watch those government leaders grow fat on corruption.

Need help with a famine? Wrestling with an epidemic? Call France.

In the future, together with Congress, I will work to redirect this money toward solving the vexing social problems we still have at home. On that note, a word to terrorist organizations. Screw with us and we will hunt you down and eliminate you and all your friends from the face of the earth.

Thirsting for a gutsy country to terrorize? Try France, or maybe China.

I am ordering the immediate severing of diplomatic relations with France, Germany, and Russia. Thanks for all your help, comrades. We are retiring from NATO as well. Bon chance, mes amis.

I have instructed the Mayor of New York City to begin towing the many UN diplomatic vehicles located in Manhattan with more than two unpaid parking tickets to sites where those vehicles will be stripped, shredded and crushed. I don't care about whatever treaty pertains to this. You creeps have tens of thousands of unpaid tickets. Pay those tickets tomorrow or watch your precious Benzes, Beamers and limos be turned over to some of the finest chop shops in the world. I love New York.

A special note to our neighbors. Canada is on List 2 Since we are likely to be seeing a lot more of each other, you folks might want to try not pissing us off for a change. Mexico is also on List 2. President Fox and his entire corrupt government need an attitude adjustment. I will have a couple extra tank and infantry divisions sitting around.

Guess where I am going to put 'em? Yep, border security. So start doing something with your oil.

Oh, by the way, the United States is abrogating the NAFTA treaty—starting now. We are tired of the one-way highway. Immediately, we'll be drilling for oil in Alaska—which will take care of this country's oil needs for decades to come.

If you're an environmentalist who opposes this decision, I refer you to List 2 above: pick a country and move there. They care.

It is time for America to focus on its own welfare and its own citizens. Some will accuse us of isolationism. I answer them by saying, "darn tootin." Nearly a century of trying to help folks live a decent life around the world has only earned us the undying enmity of just about everyone on the planet. It is time to eliminate hunger in America. It is time to eliminate homelessness in America. It is time to eliminate World Cup Soccer from America. To the nations on List 1, a final thought. Thanks guys. We owe you and we won't forget.

To the nations on List 2, a final thought: You might want to learn to speak Arabic.

God bless America.

Thank you and good night.

—Internet



(That's us—U S of A)



Did You Know?

No don't know what you don't know!

[A blast from the past]

Amateur / Ham

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

Merriam-Webster Dictionary—**Amateur**—one who engages in a pursuit, study, science, or sport as a pastime rather than as a profession—one lacking in experience and competence in an art or science.

This definition doesn't exactly instill confidence of the operators engaged in emergency communications or other public awareness events.

When describing myself to "outsiders", I refer to myself as a **Ham**. Almost everyone knows about ham radio, "Sure it's just like CB, right?" Well what ever you call yourself, try to enlighten your audience about your operation. Impress them with your technical skills and knowledge.

For the past several years, Amateur Radio has slipped in popularity. It is no longer a magic and mysterious hobby. Other modern technology has left us in the dust. It's hard to impress a person with the ability to talk around the world when the capability is available to anyone with a computer or cell phone.

When I was a youngster, I was enraptured by CW. (I still am), but it seems now, potential hams look at it as a stumbling block rather than a challenge. The FCC and ARRL have reduced the required knowledge to become licensed until all you need is a good memory to memorize the published questions and answers. This is not the fault of the new hams that the tests have become a non-factor; I would have welcomed easier tests back in my beginning years.

The problem is the amateur radio ranks are shrinking and the technology has been surpassed and is available to everyone, without testing.

Rig Safety

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

IF YOU LISTEN to the USECA repeater, you have probably heard of the problem Paul, AA8OZ, has had with his Elecraft K1. Paul uses a wire antenna held aloft by a kite and he recently had a problem caused by a static build-up on the antenna that zapped one of the components in his rig. After repairs were made Paul installed a 1K resistor across the antenna terminals in the radio to drain any static build up on the antenna.

When Paul told me about this I thought my rigs should also be protected as I also operate portable using wire antennas with no protection.

A little research told me that resistors between 1K and 10K would make a suitable drain resistor without

affecting receive or transmit modes. I thought that I could install the resistor outboard of the radio and not have to find room in the innards.

I looked through my junk box and found a 2.2K resistor and a T-adaptor. I turned on the solder station and soldered the resistor from the center jack to the shell effectively bridging the antenna connections with the 2.2K resistor. For the K1 and KX-1 I needed an additional adaptor to adapt the SO239 to the BNC antenna connection on the rigs.

Now when connected to a random wire or available flagpole, I can be sure my rigs are protected from a static

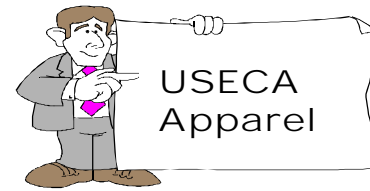
build up from either wind or nearby storm activity.



Editor's Note: This article was originally published in the March 2006 edition of the *Express*; however, the entire editorial staff missed the fact that the picture was not included — therefore, here is it again, with the picture.

USECA VE Testing

Testing will be the FIRST Thursday of the month from September through June. Joe, N8OZ will have the CVE duty. No pre-registration is needed or wanted. Test Fee is \$14.00. Applicants need copies and originals of CSCE's and/or license. There is no copy machine at the Elks; (there is none close by). Starting time is 7:00 p.m. — please do not arrive earlier. Walk-ins are welcomed. Test site is at the Mt. Clemens Elks, 179 S. Main St., Mt. Clemens. If testing, you must have the following: picture ID (or birth certificate); and a copy of your current license or completion certificates, if any.



Jackets—\$45.00 • Sweatshirts—\$25.00
 Polo Shirts—\$22.00 • Caps—\$6.00
 (2X & 3X—Additional Charge)
Contact: Chuck, N8ZA
At Meetings or Phone (586) 557-4983

The *USECA EXPRESS* is published monthly (except July and August), by the UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC., of Macomb County, Michigan. Club meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August), 7:30 p.m., local time, at the Elks Club, 179 S. Main (between Church and Robertson), Mt. Clemens, Michigan. *Visitors are always welcome.* Articles for the *EXPRESS* should be submitted to the editor no later than the night of the club meeting for publication in the following month's edition. **The articles within are those of the author and not necessarily endorsed by USECA.** Material contained in the *EXPRESS* may be reprinted provided credit is given to the *USECA EXPRESS* and the author, except material published by permission of a copyright holder. The awards for "Excellent" (1994) and four times "Superior" (1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998) were received from ARNS (Amateur Radio News Service). [Note: ARNS has disbanded.]

USECA Cork Board

? Radio Items?

ALS 600 Solid State Base Amp. No tune 1.5 to 22 MHz. List \$1129.99; sell for \$1000. (Page 86 in AES catalog) Contact Jerry, K8CFY at: k8cfy@k8uo.com.

GENERAL Radio Freq. Measuring Equipment; 2-6' cabinets; w/all frequency equipment; w/manuals; lots of electronics; \$250.

HEATHKIT Transceiver model HW-16; w/manual. 80-40 & 15 meters; no crystals; \$35.

HEATHKIT SWL radio model GR-81; 160-80-40-20 meters; w/manual \$50.

KENWOOD Linear Amp. 1000 watts, model TL-922A; 160-15 meters; \$1000.

Contact Jose, K8LJM; (586) 792-4602.

HUSTLER 4-BTV Vertical antenna. 10-15-20 & 40 meters. In excellent condition, \$75.00. af8x@arrl.net or home (586) 791 3595, cell 322 4106. Dick

KENWOOD TS-140S. Great condition, in original box with operator and service manual. Only \$395!

LARSEN dual band glass mount mobile antenna model: KG-2/70. It is used, but in good condition. Only \$45!

RADIO Chest Pack. This is an all black Lone Peak Designs radio chest pack. You can strap your HT to your chest just like the pros do! These are the very same chest packs used by public service and search and rescue personnel. Many are also used by Hams during public service activity. It's brand new and costs only \$30! Normal price is close to \$35.

Contact Floyd, W8RO at w8ro@k8uo.com or (248)-431-7769.

MFJ-1786. 10-30 MHz Hi-Q Deluxe Loop Antenna. No control cable is needed. Fast/Slow tune buttons and built-in two range Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter let you quickly tune to your exact frequency. \$150.00 af8x@arrl.net or 586 791 3595.

2 REPEATERS. 2 meter and 440. Yaesu Vertex VXR 5000s. CAT 1000 controllers with DVR and WX interface. Wacom cans. Peet Bros weather station. Cabinet. Contact Gerry, K8GER (989) 826-3196 or k8ger@k8uo.com.

WANTED: Motorola Expo batteries in GWO. Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769 or w8ro@k8uo.com

? Miscellaneous Items?

CHEVROLET, 2003 Trailblazer 4WD (W8RO/M). Excellent condition, loaded. Sandlewood exterior, Tan interior. 29K miles. Only \$19,995! For more details, contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769 or w8ro@k8uo.com.

FREE! To a good home: Epson Apex L-1000 Dot Matrix Printer (24 pin). Very good condition with manuals and drivers! Contact Floyd, W8RO at (248) 431-7769 or w8ro@k8uo.com.

SONY Trinitron Multiscan E540 21" CRT Computer Monitor with manual; like new; 2 years old. \$150. Contact Joe, K8OEF at (586) 781-0050.

FOR SALE

COMET SBB5NMO – BRAND NEW! Dual-band 2M/440, blacked-out "stealthy" antenna, with tilt-over feature so you can get in the garage, I bought two from ComDac at the last swap but only needed one (AB8MJ's truck); I paid \$60 and so will you!

Archer Video Selector – Radio Shack Cat# 15-1261, has 7 F-connectors on the back, couple switched up front; \$5.

Archer Special Effects Switcher -- Radio Shack Cat# 15-1274, 110V; \$5.

SPECO PAT-20 – 20W audio PA amp, with mic; \$10.

Micronta Power Supply -- Radio Shack Cat# 22-124, 12VDC, 2.5A, manual; \$10.

Realistic WX Radio -- Radio Shack Cat# 12-156, pocket weather radio, built-in telescopic ant. \$10.

Optimus AM/FM -- Radio Shack Cat# 12-794, pocket radio, works; \$5.

TrippLite Power Supply – model PR-40, label sez "13.8V @ 40A", no meters, ¼"-20 threaded power lugs on the back, power switch on the front, yep, it's heavy! \$100.

Heathkit HS1661 – external speaker, no cord, good condition; \$50.

American Electrola DXC-100 – rare tabletop radio, only 2000 ever made, all solid state, American made with American components, allegedly the last USA-made SW radio actually made in the USA, HF receiver up to 30 MHz + FM '3M' band, AM/FM/SW, digital LED display, direct entry keypad, wooden case, front firing speaker, large internal wire loop antenna, long telescopic antenna, ext. jack, power supply, original owners manual; \$95.

Radio Shack Micronta 21-525B – SWR/Field strength meter, sold "as is"; \$10.

ROLODEX RT-8214 – electronic organizer, 2Mb of memory, touch screen like PDA, software, pc cable for backups, just got it but looks like I won't use it, so, for sale; \$20.

MFJ-915 – RF Isolator, SO-239 (PL-style) connectors, manual, like new; \$20.

1999 BMW R1100S – email for details and sale flyer; \$5900.

Adaptor – RCA-style to PL style (SO-239), have a few; \$1.

1/4" Phono – all metal male phono plug, use for mono headphones and such; \$1.

Yaesu MH-34 – Speaker mic for Yaesu HT's, single pin 4-conductor style, rotatable lapel clip, like new; \$20.

Kenwood SMC-33 – Speaker-mic for Kenwood HT's, two-pin style, right angle connector, has three programmable buttons across top, lock switch on back, rotatable lapel clip; \$45.

Computer Speakers – amplified pc speakers, used only 10 minutes; \$5.

Dummy Load – "twin tower" dual massive ceramic resistors, looks like 50+W easy; \$15.

1N3085 – huge 100V 150A recovery diodes, have one left; \$10/each.

CB Antenna – about 26" long, base loaded, base load is tunable w/2 adjustment rings, 3/8" style mount; \$5.

Cell Phone Mobile Power Cord – for cell phone with 4.8V batt., DC coaxial plug on phone end; \$5.

Power Supply – switching PS, 12-15 VDC, 16A, works, you wire it up; \$20.

Wall Warts – various voltages, email with needs; \$2 to \$5.

Duckies – UHF duck about 6" with BNC, \$5; dual band 2M/440 "Icom" style about 6" with BNC, \$15; 11 Meter black rubber duck with right angle PL259, \$5.

K-40 10/11M Whip – 4' fiberglass, black, tunable, substitute for original K-40 stainless whip & base load, no mount or coax just the antenna; \$5.

K40 -- 10/11M base-loaded antenna with SS whip, no base for it just antenna; \$10.

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

Colt 220 – 40 ch CB radio, with mic and power cord, "as is"; \$10.

Contact Arpad, WY8M at: w8m@arrl.net or, 147.180+ MHz (100 Hz PL).

★ New or changed this month.
Please notify the editor to have item(s) added and/or removed.
This Cork Board is for club members only and it's free!

Name Badges

WITH THE OFFICIAL USECA LOGO

CONTACT LAURA — (586) 749-4561

USECA APPLICATION



Rev. 9/06

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

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

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

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

Annual Membership Dues: Regular: \$20 — Family: \$30 — Mail Printed Newsletter, ADD \$10.00
 Applications can be given to the Membership Secretary at monthly meeting or mailed.
 Please make check payable to: **USECA** — Address: **P.O. Box 46331, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046**
 (Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.)

USECA reserves the right to accept or reject New or Renewal Memberships.

Local Area FM Nets

| DAY | TIME | CLUB | FREQ. |
|---------|----------|----------------------------|---------|
| SUN | 1:00 pm | USECA/Information | 147.180 |
| SUN | 8:00 pm | USECA/Traders/Helpers | 147.180 |
| SUN | 9:00 pm | HPARC/Info | 146.640 |
| SUN | 9:00 pm | Garden City ARC | 146.860 |
| SUN-SAT | 10:15 pm | S. E. Michigan Traffic Net | 145.330 |
| MON | 7:30 pm | SATERN | 147.180 |
| MON | 8:00 pm | MECA/Info | 147.200 |
| MON | 8:00 pm | GMARC (PL 123) | 443.075 |
| MON | 9:00 pm | USECA/Morse Code Class | 147.180 |
| TUE | 9:00 pm | Motor City Radio Club | 147.240 |
| WED | 9:00 pm | ARPSC/Info | 145.490 |
| THU | 8:00 pm | RACES/ARES | 147.200 |
| THU | 8:30 pm | LCARC/Info | 147.080 |

VHF PL'S — 100 Hz

On The World Wide Web
 USECA Home Page

WWW.USECA.NET

Local HF Nets

| DAY | TIME | CLUB/DESCRIPTION | FREQ. |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| MON | 7:30 pm | LCARC/15 Meter CW | 21.165 |
| MON | 9:00 pm | LCARC/15 Meter Phone USB | 21.395 |
| WED | 7:00 pm | USECA/6 Meter Phone USB | 50.150 |
| THU | 7:30 pm | LCARC/10 Meter Phone USB | 28.435 |
| THU | 9:00 pm | USECA/15 Meter Slow CW | 21.140 |
| FRI | 10:00 pm | USECA/80 Meter CW | 3.710 |
| FRI | 11:00 pm | USECA/10 Meter Phone USB | 28.425 |

Listings in **BOLD** are USECA club nets, but ALL ARE WELCOME!

Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

| | SUN. 1 PM | SUN. 8 PM** |
|------|-------------|-------------|
| WEEK | 147.180 MHz | 147.180 MHz |
| 1 | -OPEN- | W1IK |
| 2 | KT8F | N8EB |
| 3 | -OPEN- | KD8AVF |
| 4 | -OPEN- | KW8Z |
| 5* | WB8E | -OPEN- |

*If applicable

**Traders/Helpers Net

NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement or contact Brian, KC8DIR (586) 749-4561—Don't wait!

USECA

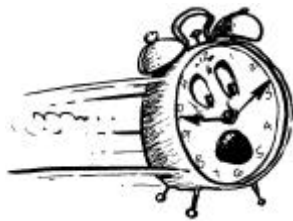
UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 46331 • Mt. Clemens, MI 48046

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL



OCTOBER 2006



***Fall Back—
Sunday, October 29***

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

| MONTH | DATE | TIME | EVENT |
|-------|------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| OCT | 5 | 7:00 pm | VE Test Session |
| OCT | 10 | 7:30 pm | General Meeting |
| OCT | 29 | 8:00 am | USECA 21st Annual Swap |
| NOV | 2 | 7:00 pm | VE Test Session |
| NOV | 7 | 7:30 pm | General Meeting (Nominations) |
| DEC | 2 | 7:00 pm | USECA 19th Annual Christmas Party |
| DEC | 7 | 7:00 pm | VE Test Session |
| DEC | 12 | 7:30 pm | General Meeting (Elections) |

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