



# USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC. Volume 23, Number 8, October 2007

## USECA Meeting Minutes

### Board Meeting—September 4, 2007

In attendance:

N8ZA, Chuck	President
N8VI, Brad	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
N8OZ, Joe	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
WB8E, Walt	Board Member
N8ZI, Tom	Board Member
(Vacant)	Board Member
W1IK, Jim	Past President

\*Absent



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

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

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

Membership: Joe, N8OZ has been appointed to the position of Membership Secretary as Ken, KW8Z resigned over the summer. Joe informed us that we have 157 members currently.

Webmaster: Brad discussed ways of resolving USECA's internet domain name issues. Discussion.

Technical: Jim reported that he has received our brand new controller. He talked about the great features it has as well as the steps involved in getting it up and running. Jim stated it would take "2 weeks."

ARRL: no report.

Trustee: Dennis W8DFG – no report.

Express: Joe, K8OEF – no report.

Health and Welfare: Walt, WB8E – reported on ailing members. Cards sent out.

Field Day: no report.

Swap: Tom, N8ZI: has been mailing out letters.

**Old Business:** none.

**New Business:** Dennis stated that we now have an official written agreement with the Elk's club. Paperwork given to the secretary.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Walt and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom, motion carried, meeting adjourned at: 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Manor, KT8F  
Recording Secretary

### General Meeting—September 10, 2007

In attendance:

N8ZA, Chuck	President
N8VI, Brad	Vice-President
KT8F, Ann	Recording Secretary
N8OZ, Joe	Membership Secretary
W8DFG, Dennis	Treasurer
WB8E, Walt	Board Member
N8ZI, Tom	Board Member
(Vacant)	Board Member
W1IK, Jim	Past President

\*Absent

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

Motion made to accept the minutes as printed in the Express made by Jim, WY8I and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve, N8ZO, motion carried.

Membership: Joe, N8OZ: 157 members.

Treasurer's report given by Dennis, W8DFG. Motion to approve made by Joe, N8KA and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard, K8PJQ, motion carried.

Technical report: Repeater controller.

Trustee report: Dennis, W8DFG: Matrix repeater etiquette.

Health and Welfare: Walt, WB8E – K8DJE & K8RDJ.

Field Day: Steve, N8XO.

Swap: Tom, N8VI.

#### Old Business:

Badges, Campout, Christmas Party on December 8 and Elks Lodge rules.

#### New Business:

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Keith, N8EB and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John, KA2IBE at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Tincknell, N8ZI  
Acting Recording Secretary

**USECA Swap  
Sunday, October 28**

**Next Meeting — October 8th**

## 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	Joe Kennedy/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Board Member	Walt Gracey/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Board Member	Tom Tincknell/N8ZI (586) 651-7239
Board Member	(Vacant)
Past President	Jim Wickstrom/W1IK (586) 771-4135

### COMMITTEES

ARRL Liaison	Bobby/N8CY (248) 879-7214
Awards Manager	Keith/N8EB (586) 777-6751
Door Prizes	-OPEN-
Editor	Joe/K8OEF (586) 781-0050
Field Day Chair	Bill/N8SA, Steve/N8XO & Ray/N8UY
Health & Welfare	Walt/WB8E (586) 777-2954
Historian	Jerry/K8CFY (586) 791-4484
Mailers/Sorters	Ann/KT8F; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
Net Manager	Keith/N8EB (586) 777-6751
Photographer	Wes/KD8DHS
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/N8ZI (586) 651-7239
Technical Director	Jim/W1IK (586) 771-4135
Technicians	KA8D; W8IC; WA8GQL; W8RO; AD8S; N8SA; W1SKU; N8ZI
VE Testing	Joe/N8OZ (586) 977-7222
Webmaster	Brad/N8VI (248) 506-7609

### CONTROL OPERATORS (\*Phone Number Above)

Jim/WY8I	Joe/K8OEF*	Fred/W1SKU
Phil/W8IC	Joe/N8OZ*	Chuck/N8ZA*
Jim/W1IK*	Floyd/W8RO	Tom/N8ZI*

### PROGRAMMERS

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

## Still Going

Joe, K8OEF

Except for the Meeting Minutes this month, the entire editorial staff is like the rest of the members and/or other contributors—*nothing to report.*

73 for now.



### FYI...

Daylight Saving Time will change (fall back) on November 4 in 2007. In the past, it was the last Sunday in October, but beginning in 2007, it changes on the first Sunday in November.

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

### USECA VE Testing

Testing will be the THIRD Monday of the month from September thru June. Joe, N8OZ, is the Contact VE. Pre-registration is encouraged. Test fee is \$14.00 cash (exact change only). Examinees need to bring Xerox copies of current license and un-expired CSCE's, if any. There is no copy machine at the test site. Official starting time is 7:00 PM. Walk-ins are welcomed. Test site is at the Mt. Clemens Elks Club (179 S. Main St. in Mt. Clemens). Other VE test sessions can be arranged—contact the Contact VE for details.

## Why QRP?

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

**W**HEN I WAS FIRST licensed in 1978, I was so enamored with radio in general and CW in particular, every waking moment I either thought about amateur radio or talked about it.

Conditions were wonderful and getting better. It was no problem to work anywhere in the world with 100 watts. I made many, many contacts during the next several years. I had schedules with hams around the world and propagation was such that we rarely missed connections. About that time I found myself becoming bored with HF operation, making contacts seemed as easy as making a phone call; the magic was gone.

I got interested in a new technology: Computers. Home computers were just hitting the market. I had a couple of the early models and quickly became a "quiet key."

For several years I only dusted my station equipment and very rarely turned it on to see if I could still copy CW. Then it happened...I was looking through a friend's radio magazine when I saw an article about QRP. It was kind of interesting that most of the QRP equipment was home-brewed. The only kits at the time were Heathkits. I was mildly interested, but the more I thought about the low cost, the ability to work portable without a ton of equipment needed, intrigued me.

The more I thought about and read more accounts of QRP operation, the more I knew I needed to get into this mode. I sold all my station equipment and recycled the money into QRP related equipment. I was amazed that I could make contacts around the world using only 5 watts. I often got up before sunrise and worked Australia or New Zealand on 40 meters using 5 watts to an inverted-vee antenna. Alas, those days are over now that the solar cycle is near the bottom, but at the time things couldn't be better for QRPers.

If you are bored with your present operation, give QRP a try. QRP is 5-watts out on CW or 10-watts SSB. CW being the more effective mode especially now when conditions are not great. If you have tried it and are not impressed because of a lack of success, either calling CQ or answering CQs, try operating near the end of a contest when the operators are desperate for new contacts. You will be surprised at how well they can hear you during that time.

If you are still a bit skeptical about low power capability, here is something that is the "proof of the pudding." I built a QRPP (less than 1-watt) transceiver kit with an output of 80 mw. The first contact with that rig was New York and a second station in Seattle Washington broke in and gave me a signal report too. After using this and other QRPP rigs I built running less than 1-watt, I went back to my 5 watt rig and it seemed like I was running a KW; I rarely missed making a contact.

After years of operating with some of the QRP rigs on the market, I saw the Elecraft K1<sup>1</sup>. I built the kit and it immediately became my favorite rig, until...The KX-1. Another kit by Elecraft, which my XYL was kind enough to buy as a Christmas gift for me. The only thing I crave now is some warm weather so I can go out and play.

If anyone is interested in giving the QRP challenge a try, Walt, WB8E and myself are out in our secret spot at Metro Beach<sup>2</sup> every week, weather permitting. We would be happy to give any information or advice on QRP, absolutely free!

Page Reprinted from April 2005 Express.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.elecraft.com/index.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Personal watercraft launch area

## USECA Cork Board

### Radio Items

[None]

### Miscellaneous Items

SONY Trinitron Multiscan E540 21" CRT Computer Monitor with manual; like new; 2 years old. \$100. Contact Joe, K8OEF at (586) 781-0050.

★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

### ★FOR SALE

**CUSHCRAFT R5** -- 10-12-15-17-20M HF vertical ant., details at: <http://www.cushcraft.com/support/pdf/r5.pdf> , works great, looking to upgrade; \$100.

**ELECRAFT K1** — four-band version with ALL internal options, presently set up for 15-20-30-40M, digital display, menu options, XIT/RIT, amazing auto antenna tuner, noise blanker, 3-stage cw filter, built-in battery pack, built-in speaker, internal/external power switch, original box and assy manual, color-matched Palm Paddle key affixed with spare key base and extra cord, will include small padded carrying case and bnc adaptor, looks/works great; \$600- firm - OR - trade K1 + \$\$\$ for TS-2000.

**Kenwood TR-2500** -- 2M HT, no battery but has cigarette lighter plug battery-pack by-pass thingie, LCD digital display, PL encode board inside, this HT not for sale but free to use for a month for any newly licensed ham radio operator who needs a temporary rig!

**Heathkit SW-7800** – short wave receiver, AM/SSB/CW 150kHz-30MHz, base station model, built-in power supply, digital LED display and analog S-meter, front-firing built-in speaker, headphone jack, three antenna ports; \$150.

**Philips TrenchMOS FET** – BUK9508 55A N-channel enhancement mode FET transistors, 55 Vds at 125 A (Id), TO220AB case, have 30 of them in an anti-static sleeve, eBay sells for \$2.55; Buy whole sleeve for \$40.

**American Electroa DXC-100** – rare tabletop radio, only 2000 ever made, all solid state, all American made with only American components, the last USA-made consumer 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.

**TrippLite PR-40** – DC power supply, 13.8VDC, 40A, no meters, ¼" lugs on back; \$100.

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

**Sprague Model 500** – Interference Locator, apparently used by some clever hams as an SWL rig, receives 550kHz to 220MHz, has a phono jack output, external power jacks, still has original Burgess batteries (no leaks) and antennas in the removable lid; \$75.

**Optimus 33-3021** – Uni-Directional Microphone, black, on/off switch, cord; \$20.

**ElectroVoice 634A** – microphone, short cable; \$5.

**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.

**Heathkit Assembly Manual HX-10** – good condition, appears complete; \$10.

**Heathkit Manual Deluxe SWL Receiver GR-54** – poor condition, may be complete; \$5. — **Heathkit 1984 catalog** – good condition; \$5.

**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 antenna; \$10.

**BUD Filter LF-601** – variable low-pass filter, SO-239 PL-type connectors, 5 adjusters; \$20.

**Meissner 15-7510** – "Wave Trap" (filter), 6Mc to 13Mc, for ladderline; \$10.

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

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

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

**NEC Computer Monitor** – model XV17+, 17" color, works; \$50.

**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 battery, DC coaxial plug on phone end; \$5.

**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; \$5.

**Regency CB-501** -- 40 ch CB radio, with mic, "as is"; \$5.

Contact Arpad, WY8M at: [wy8m@arrl.net](mailto:wy8m@arrl.net) or, 147.180+ MHz (100 Hz PL).

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

VHF PL'S — 100 Hz

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

**WWW.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
<b>WED</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>USECA/6 Meter Phone USB</b>	<b>50.150</b>
THU	7:30 pm	LCARC/10 Meter Phone USB	28.435
<b>THU</b>	<b>9:00 pm</b>	<b>USECA/15 Meter CW</b>	<b>21.140</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>10:00 pm</b>	<b>USECA/80 Meter CW</b>	<b>3.570</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>11:00 pm</b>	<b>USECA/10 Meter Phone USB</b>	<b>28.425</b>

## Net Ops Schedules

### 2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM	SUN. 8 PM**
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
<b>1</b>	-OPEN-	W1IK
<b>2</b>	KT8F	N8EB
<b>3</b>	-OPEN-	N8ZI
<b>4</b>	-OPEN-	KW8Z
<b>5*</b>	WB8E	-OPEN-

\*If applicable

\*\*Traders/Helpers Net

NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement or contact Keith, N8EB (586) 777-6751—Don't wait!

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

# USECA

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

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



**OCTOBER 2007**

***"The Happenin' Club"***

## Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
OCT	8	7:30 pm	General Meeting
OCT	15	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
OCT	28	8:00 am	USECA 22nd Annual Swap
NOV	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting (Nominations)
NOV	19	7:00 pm	VE Test Session
DEC	8	7:00 pm	USECA 20th Annual Christmas Party
DEC	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting (Elections)
DEC	17	7:00 pm	VE Test Session

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