



USECA EXPRESS



Michigan's Largest and Most Active Amateur Radio Club

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC. Volume 16, Number 7, September 2000

USECAns In The News

Ken, N8KC

WOW! IS THIS CLUB the "Happenin' Club" or what?! USECA and USECAns have certainly been in the limelight lately—just a few examples below:

June's QST featured a 'YL' article focusing on USECA's 'YLS at the helm,' an excellent piece on how USECA's managed to attract and interest women in Ham Radio (including a plug for our web-site!).

The ARRL web-site also featured USECA in their 'Special Service Club Spotlight' for two weeks in June (it can still be seen in the archives). USECA also rated a mention in an article on Jerry's (N8KLX) free Field Day logging program as well as another plug for our web-site!

A reporter from the 'Source' (a local paper in the Utica/Shelby/Sterling area) was in attendance at Field Day 2000, collecting information for an article as he visited each station. Last year, they did a wonderful piece on USECA entitled 'Hams across America' shortly after Field Day.

My son, Sean (KF8ZV) and *yours truly* were featured in a Detroit News 'Recreation' feature on our 20 years of salmon fishing tradition on the Betsie river with family and friends. (page 4D, 6/9/00, also visible on the internet) The fact that Ham radio comes along was edited from the finished article.

Paul Stoetzer, AB8HM (ex-KC8NGY), was recently featured in a Macomb Daily feature article on 'Braniacs' (page 1C, 6/28/20). (Similar articles appeared in the Utica-Shelby News and the Source.)

—Continued on Page 13

Know Code

Arpad, WY8M

I FEEL COMPELLED to offer a rebuttal to the article found in the June 2000 issue of the Express. I felt the "crystal clear" points were rather unclear.

To save valuable space in this great rag, I'll just refer to the "crystal clear" points in the order they were listed:

1. CW is just another mode? Yep. Just like SSB or FM or PSK-31. So? Those who do not wish to use the code should not learn about it? Okay, then I don't want to learn about SSTV or Packet or satellite or EME, as I'll never use those modes. Sounds silly, doesn't it? We learn about all the different (presently active) modes to educate us and teach us about radio. ALL radio. Whether you like it or not is a completely different story! If you don't like it, buy an FRS and get over it. Anything worth while is earned. I got my general to use the voice privileges. I learned the code without complaining. It was just another requirement to get to the privileges I wanted.

2. Yes, other faster and more modern modes have been invented/created since the introduction of CW. Faster can be good, if that's important. Listening to the FM repeaters every day shows me that "efficiency" and "speed of communicated information" is not of paramount importance. Working RTTY at FD for the last two years showed me that plain ol' CW is just as fast!

Of course, all "modern" means is the new mode came after something else. A time line, if you will. "Modern" doesn't automatically make something better...sounds good, though.

—Continued on Page 13

Kitchen 2000 Wrap-up Manhattan Marketplace Delivers

Dennis, W8DFG

I'M SURE THAT all are aware of the saying "It's not what you know, it's who you know." Well I firmly believe in that statement. Dan Zalenski, who is on the Walk-America Committee, changed jobs the first of the year, and at our first meeting in January, when I found this out, I questioned him about the use of a refrigerated truck for Field Day Weekend. His reply being, "Sure, no problem," and the rest of the story is history. The truck that they donated was a lifesaver. Did not have to line up 50 coolers and a ton of ice. So, bottom line here is if you live in the area of Hall Road & Romeo Plank, please by all means, stop in and patronize them at Manhattan Market. I ask this of you, because I have put in my reservation for next year.

Since Field Day, many people have congratulated me on the fine job on the kitchen. Well, I did not do it by myself. I had people coming out of the woodwork for this event. From my right hand man Brian, KC8DIR who helped out from A-Z. Our weekend started on Thursday morning picking up supplies needed. From tools to popcorn maker, Brian did it all.

The breakfast crew was outstanding, Lora, Tom, and non-ham Joe doing the cooking and clean up. The combined afternoon and evening crew stepped up with their smiling face and outdid themselves.

—Continued on Page 14

Next Meeting — September 12

CLUB DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

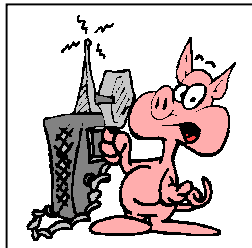
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 Past President Dennis Gaboury/W8DFG, (810) 465-7126

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Cunningham/KC8IAQ, (810) 791-2720
 Jerry Radcliffe/N8KLX, (810) 731-9041
 (Open)

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 Awards Manager Jon/KC8HYU
 Door Prizes Dina/N8YJI
 Editor Joe/K8OEF, (810) 781-0050
 Field Day Chair Jerry/N8KLX, (810) 731-9041
 Health & Welfare Marianne/N8TMJ, (810) 677-1667
 Historians Jerry/K8CFY & Ann/KG8IF
 Mailers/Sorters Ann/KG8IF; Phil/W8IC; & Crew
 Net Manager Brian/KC8DIR, (810) 749-4561
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 Dennis/W8DFG Dave/KC8IAQ Doug/N8KND; Bill/N8SA

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WB8E	W8IR	N8KC	N8OEF	N8SN	WB8X
KI8HW	WA8IZV	WY8M	N8OZ	WM8T	
W1IK	WA8JPR	W8NG	N8SA	KB8WTH	

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Art Sheff/WD8EGV	Rick Parady/KB8KLW	Velma Ragon/N8YVC
Joe Lucido/NU8F	John Moore/KA8KTV	John Tomlins/KG8YX
Charles Smith/N8FWF	John Palmer/WD8LBH	
Clarence Ringo/W8HQO	John Pizzuti/WB8NHT	

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 SK
J. Haubner c	WB8NHT fc	

The Editor is:

Still Going

Joe, K8OEF (k8oef@tir.com)



If you've been "out of the loop," be advised that Debbi, KB8YYB resigned her office as President. Nancy, KB8QMS is now President and Mark, W8IR is Vice President. With Mark's elevation, there is an opening for a Board Member—the election for this vacancy will take place at September's general meeting. If there was a time to "put your name in the hat," this is it!

If you receive this *Express* prior to August 27th, come to USECA's annual picnic in New Baltimore.

As in years past, USECA will assist with communications in the Michigan Peach Festival Parade in Romeo. Help will be needed for Sunday and Monday—September 3rd & 4th—contact Dennis, W8DFG or Nancy, KB8QMS (see Club Directory for their phone numbers).

And don't forget our most important event of the year (yes, more than field day)—USECA's Swap on October 22nd. If you don't help in a single event, for whatever reason, this is THE one your help is needed. The survivorship, growth and progress of this club depends on the success of this event. This is a great opportunity to show the hams and visitors what our club is all about. Be proud—you're part of the absolute BEST! (Check out the info on USECA's web page.)

73 for now.

Fox Hunters!

Anyone interested in participating in a quick Fox Hunt, starting an hour before the general meetings this Fall & Winter, please contact me at floyd@hi-rescom.com. I want to hear from anyone that is interested in being the Fox as

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From The Desk of N8TMJ	3
USECA VE Testing	3
USECA Apparel	3
RFI Problems	4
GPS Accuracy	5
Net Points	6
Radio Equipment/POW Camp	7
Amateur Licenses Skyrocket	10
Members E-Mail Directory	11
Meeting Minutes	12
USECA Cork Board	14
Y2K Net Point System	14
USECA Membership Application	15
Local Area Nets	15
Net Ops Schedules	15
Club Activities....(Cover)	
Swaps.....(Cover)	
6-Meter Nets.....(Cover)	

From the desk of Marianne, N8TMJ (Membership Secretary)

Membership

Here are some call changes that were passed on to me:

Name	From	To
Ken	N8HZE	KW8Z
Ann	KG8IF	KT8F
Paul	KC8NGY	AB8HM
Don	WB8T	WX3L (again)

Reminder—please send me a copy of your new license. This is required as part of your membership in USECA.

Thank you to those that have done so.

Health and Welfare

This has been a hard summer for us.

Don (N8VTF) lost his wife Cathy to cancer.

A day later we were notified that a former member, Hal, KA8KM, died of a heart attack at the young age of 43. Hal was one of the first members that participated in Christmas in July with us when we began about seven years ago.

Bob Armstrong (K8NSR)—not a USECA member—but the voice on RACES nets—succumbed to colon cancer just recently.

As for my own personal loss—my dad passed away in June and I would like to thank all the members that contributed to the lovely planter that was sent to us in dad's honor. Couldn't read some of the names or calls on the note that was attached so please accept my gratitude.

Jim (N8OKW) was recently in the hospital with a severe infection in one of his toes and while the doctors were trying to figure out what to do with treatment, they discovered that his toe is broken. Both are being taken care of with rest and medication. Thank you to those that sent him cards.

Camping

Christmas in July

Algonac came alive with a Santa Flag, flashing Christmas lights, Christmas music and a lighted Christmas tree during the Christmas in July campout. Most of the decorations were provided by Dina (N8YJI) and Ken (KC8HMI).

The music was provided by Jerry (K8CFY) and Betty (N8SIH). Some of us had the pleasure to hear Dave (W8VB) play his harmonica. Although we had only 9 camping families, we had a great weekend of fun, food and gifts.

Weather was quite an improvement over last year's heat. In fact, we wore jackets at Saturday's dinner because it turned cool. Thirty-seven people enjoyed the pass-a-dish meal and the white elephant gift exchange provided many laughs and surprises. The gift that has been present at least three Christmas parties was picked by a guest. She absolutely loved the pink poodles and wouldn't part with them.

Marilyn (K8PIK) got a SWR meter only to lose it to Don (N8VTF). He got the lucky gift of the evening unless you talk to Ray (KC8NDO) and ask him about his new coffee mug.

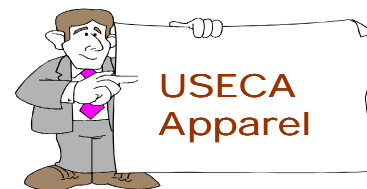
We missed some of our regulars but the air show at Selfridge was too much competition for us. We stayed with our traditional weekend (the 3rd weekend in July). Mark your calendar for the weekend of July 20-21-22, 2001 and plan on coming out and join the fun.

The newcomers, Dave Martin (W8VB) and Marge Martin (N8TNP); Linda and Rich (KC8HMJ) Line, and Ken (KW8Z) and Linda Cassale; Ray (KC8NDO) and his son said they would be back for the fun. The bonus was heavy freighter traffic on the river and we all enjoyed watching them go by.

Marianne—N8TMJ (Hostess for Christmas in July)

USECA VE Testing

Examinations for an Amateur License are held the on the first and third 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 not required. 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.).



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

(Email from W8VB)

RFI Problems

Dave, W8VB

SORRY TO HEAR you are experiencing RFI problems, I hope I can help. I am a retired electrical engineer with 40 years in the business and was a Chief Aviation Electronics Technician in the Navy. So you can imagine I've been the misery of RFI/EMI problems of my own many times.

At one point in my career I designed and built an RF screen room at Burroughs Corp. (now UNISYS) to develop methods for detecting and curing sorts of problems these sort of problems.

I have been a ham for about 20 years and have lived in several types of houses each with its own set of operating challenges.

Mobile RF operation is especially tricky, even more so now with all the on board electronics that can affect and be effected by radio gear.

I personally drive a 1994 Cadillac sedan Deville that emanate a tremendous amount of RFI from (believe it or not) the drivers air bag control module in the steering wheel. I am unable to receive NOAA weather on 162.55 when the engine is running. Enough about me!

The UN/UN Ken is referring to is a "Radio Works" Line isolator I strongly suggest you obtain their latest catalog (1-800-280-8327) or on the web RadioWorks.com or for personal help jim@radioworks.com.

The line isolator is explained in detail in their Full Line Product information manual. Essentially it keeps the RF on the inner conductor of the coax where it belongs not traveling on the shield and back in to your rig (OUCH) many times resulting in high SWR and damage through overheating your rig.

Their products work!

I have a very expensive satellite transceiver the Yaesu FT 736 which is an all mode 2m-440-6m-1.2G unit. Some time ago I started 2 six meter nets one of which was on the N8MCD repeater and where I ran

net control on FM (was keyed up a lot being net control) smoke would rise in column out of my \$2800 rig in the switching power supply area at the left rear of the chassis. (coronary time hi hi). I called radio works in a panic and they suggested their VHF line isolator with a ground strap at one end. CURED problem!

I also installed their HF line isolator in my HF antenna system because of reports of RF on my audio—one between the rig and my linear and one between the linear and the antenna tuner. CURED problem!

As good as these products are you must have good RF ground system at your base or mobile as a mandatory prerequisite.

In a base unit make your tuner the focal point of a starred grounding network. This means all braided ground straps converge at the tuner, or if you're not using an external tuner, then on the ground post on the rig.

If the rig doesn't have a ground post find the largest unpainted ground point and attach it there using external star washer under screw head. DO NOT use coax braid or plain wire, in any form as a ground strap. Pay the price and buy good ground strap as shown in the Radio Works catalog, or buy Belden grounding braid or exact equivalent.

An ohmmeter reading is no assurance of a good RF ground. If this is a base installation connect, the star point of your grounding system to the closest 8 foot ground rod or rods, I have 2 8-footers outside the overhang of the gutters so they get as much moisture as possible.

Another additional bit of insurance is to run counterpoise wires one cut for each band, but emanating from your ground star point. If the star point is near a furnace heat duct, run braid and bond your heating system to this point. Be

sure you bond each piece of duct to the next using braid.

Water pipe grounds are usually useless since pipe joint compound on black pipe is good insulator. In some homes the water system is purposely insulated at the meter.

The reason I stress good braided bonding with as many strands as possible, is because of skin effect. At RF frequencies all energy flows on the outer surface of a conductor. The more small conductors bonded together the better. The higher the frequency the more pronounced is the effect.

As an example, think of wave guides at microwave frequency, RF is injected inside the wave guide and travels on the inner surface of the wave guide to the load.

In mobile applications the problems become more acute. Here we have a multitude of vehicle types, sizes, and structural body fastening such as spot welding, MIG welding, laser welding, riveting and bolting each with its own effect resistivity between body parts.

Paint and primer and electro-coated powders are real problems for RF, so remember two long 10 gauge wires to the battery is great for DC but not substitute for bonding for RF.

If the mobile rig is dash mounted run a bonding strap to the firewall from the rigs' case. Make sure there is a good RF path from the antenna to the firewall, keeping in mind welds, bolts rivets, paint, primer and other RF obstructions. Keep the path as short and direct as possible and remember skin effect.

I hope this information helps your problems and remember get out the ARRL antenna manual and any other books and read up on skin effect.

Best of luck with this art/science.

If I can be of any further help call me at (810) 826-9783

73, Dave Martin, W8VB

May 1, 2000

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT REGARDING THE UNITED STATES' DECISION
TO STOP DEGRADING GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM ACCURACY**

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT REGARDING
THE UNITED STATES' DECISION TO STOP DEGRADING
GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM ACCURACY**

Today, I am pleased to announce that the United States will stop the intentional degradation of the Global Positioning System (GPS) signals available to the public beginning at midnight tonight. We call this degradation feature Selective Availability (SA). This will mean that civilian users of GPS will be able to pinpoint locations up to ten times more accurately than they do now. GPS is a dual-use, satellite-based system that provides accurate location and timing data to users worldwide.

My March 1996 Presidential Decision Directive included in the goals for GPS to: "encourage acceptance and integration of GPS into peaceful civil, commercial and scientific applications worldwide; and to encourage private sector investment in and use of U.S. GPS technologies and services." To meet these goals, I committed the U.S. to discontinuing the use of SA by 2006 with an annual assessment of its continued use beginning this year.

The decision to discontinue SA is the latest measure in an on-going effort to make GPS more responsive to civil and commercial users worldwide. Last year, Vice President Gore announced our plans to modernize GPS by adding two new civilian signals to enhance the civil and commercial service. This initiative is on-track and the budget further advances modernization by incorporating some of the new features on up to 18 additional satellites that are already awaiting launch or are in production. We will continue to provide all of these capabilities to worldwide users free of charge.

My decision to discontinue SA was based upon a recommendation by the Secretary of Defense in coordina-

tion with the Departments of State, Transportation, Commerce, the Director of Central Intelligence, and other Executive Branch Departments and Agencies. They realized that worldwide transportation safety, scientific, and commercial interests could best be served by discontinuation of SA. Along with our commitment to enhance GPS for peaceful applications, my administration is committed to preserving fully the military utility of GPS. The decision to discontinue SA is coupled with our continuing efforts to upgrade the military utility of our systems that use GPS, and is supported by threat assessments which conclude that setting SA to zero at this time would have minimal impact on national security. Additionally, we have demonstrated the capability to selectively deny GPS signals on a regional basis when our national security is threatened. This regional approach to denying navigation services is consistent with the 1996 plan to discontinue the degradation of civil and commercial GPS service globally through the SA technique.

Originally developed by the Department of Defense as a military system, GPS has become a global utility. It benefits users around the world in many different applications, including air, road, marine, and rail navigation, telecommunications, emergency response, oil exploration, mining, and many more. Civilian users will realize a dramatic improvement in GPS accuracy with the discontinuation of SA. For example, emergency teams responding to a cry for help can now determine what side of the highway they must respond to, thereby saving precious minutes. This increase in accuracy will allow new GPS applications to emerge and continue to enhance the lives of people around the world.

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 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. To get a message to the Board or the Membership Secretary, please call our answering machine at: (810) 268-6730. The awards for "Excellent" (1994) and four times "Superior" (1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998) were received from ARNS (Amateur Radio News Service).

USECA 2000 VHF Net Points As Received By August 6, 2000

Call	Name	pts	Call	Name	pts	Call	Name	pts	Call	Name	pts
AABDD	BOB	2	KCBJAA	JAMES	2	NBRUE	EDDY	1			
AB8BT	ANDY	48	KCBJBK	CHARLIE	1	NBRUH	TJ	2			
AB8FV	DAVE	5	KCBJCH	RAY	3	NBSA	BILL	5			
AB8FM	PAUL	7	KCBJSH	DELPHINE	1	NBSE	JOHN	1			
KATU	DWIGHT	1	KCBKIR	MATTHEW	11	NBSH	BETTY	14			
K8CFY	JERRY	15	KCBKIN	STEVE	23	NBSLH	BRUCE	4			
K8CPA	CHUCK	3	KCBKJS	STEVE	1	NBSN	CHUCK	2			
K8DXX	BILL	14	KCBKOH	LAURA	2	NBTKH	JOHN	2			
K8DZT	FRANK	1	KCBKRR	GREG	2	NBTMJ	MARRIANNE	9			
K8EZ	RANDY	1	KCBLOM	MICHAEL	2	NBTLN	STEVE	1			
K8FCS	RON	1	KCBLOD	RAY	11	NBVTI	DON	2			
K8GEO	GEORGE	7	KCBRLR	SCOTT	2	NBKOJ	ISAAH	2			
K8HRP	KIM	1	KCBLOC	TOM	75	NBYBY	LEONARD	60			
K8JN	FRANK	3	KCBLLM	MIKE	9	NBYJI	DNA	12			
K8KXK	JERRY	1	KCBLXN	LORIE	1	NBYWS	STAN	1			
K8OEF	JOE	6	KCBMCM	ROGER	1	NBZLO	JIM	1			
K8QLM	RICHARD	170	KCBMES	FRED	2	NBZR	STEVE	2			
K8RFP	RON	1	KCBMHQ	RON	1	NBZRZ	AL	1			
K8TXS	ALEX	3	KCBMQL	JOE	1	NBZZ	JOHN	1			
K8VH	DAVE	2	KCBMSX	BILL	3	NBZZE	JOHN	3			
K8ZE	JOHN	1	KCBMWW	BRUCE	22	NBZZF	PAT	4			
K8ZEC	JOHN	15	KCBMAG	JIM	1	NFGZ	LARRY	2			
KA2IBE	JOHN	4	KCBNAJ	MICHELLE	1	NBSE	JOHN	45			
KABGI	DARREL	25	KCBNDI	JIM	2	VASJWC	ALBERT	1			
KABRY	DAN	1	KCBNDQ	RAY	42	VASXON	DAN	1			
KABPIQ	JEFF	1	KCBNGW	JIM	1	VE3LFX	MARIE	15			
KABTIQ	JEFF	3	KCBNGY	PAUL	40	VE3OMP	PAUL	1			
KABTWO	HANK	1	KCBNHV	HAROLD	2	VE3PTC	BOB	1			
KABUW	STEVE	2	KCBNLE	KEN	23	VE3RJK	CHRIS	1			
KABYRW	STEVE	2	KCBNLG	KEITH	1	VE3TMG	TERRY	1			
K84BH	ROGER	1	KCBNLJ	MIKE	2	W1IK	JIM	77			
K8BZS	JOHN	1	KCBNLK	JUSTIN	1	WB8HF	BOB	13			
K8BDS	JOHN	8	KCBNOE	KEN	3	WB8QD	SCOTT	1			
K8BFZ	DAVE	5	KCBNOA	MIKE	10	WB8FG	DENNIS	19			
K8BGO	KEN	2	KCBNQL	JOE	1	WB8DX	EDWARD	4			
K8LFE	JIM	1	KCBNGS	ROSS	3	WB8GL	DAN	1			
K8BNYV	STEVE	1	KCBNJA	DAWN	2	WB8IC	PHIL	4			
K8BVC	MATT	1	KCBNJB	RON	1	WB8DO	DENNIS	5			
K8BGE	JOE	1	KCBNJR	SUSAN	2	WB8IR	MARK	5			
K8BO	ART	1	KCBOBH	DAVE	2	WB8TB	TED	1			
K8BQFV	FRED	1	KCBOCU	JAMES	1	WB8JK	BOB	5			
K8BQMP	BILL	9	KCBOGA	ANNMARIE	2	WB8KC	PAUL	26			
K8BQMS	NANCY	12	KCBOGG	GRANT	6	WB8NG	JIM	7			
K8BRBV	MANNY	4	KCBOLW	LARRY	1	WB8SH	MORRIS	1			
K8BSLJ	DAVE	4	KCBOSF	ARVIN	1	WB8PEG	PEGGY	3			
K8BTAS	JERRY	17	KCBPIQ	JEFF	1	WB8RO	FLOYD	23			
K8BTEZ	MATT	11	KCBQNA	MIKE	1	WB8RPM	RON	1			
K8BLUJ	JIM	1	K4DOLA	JAMES	1	WB8SLR	SAM	9			
K8BUJ	DAN	1	K8BJUM	MURRY	2	WB8STV	KEN	1			
K8BVCA	BEN	1	K8BXSJ	FLOTSKI	2	WB8LHQ	DAN	1			
K8BVWF	DON	1	K8BGF	ANN	10	WB8VB	DAVE	79			
K8BVWQ	MIKE	1	K8BMS	MARCO	1	WB8VB	KEN	2			
K8BVWQ	CHUCK	2	K8BWF	WHICE	2	WB8ZT	CHRIS	1			
K8BVWG	CARL	1	K8BS	PHIL	1	WB8QK	BOB	1			
K8BWH	RICHARD	34	K8BHJ	LARRY	32	WB8DQV	MARSHALL	2			
K8BYNY	MICHELLE	1	K8BHV	STEVE	5	WB8QJL	DAN	4			
K8BYYA	DREUX	7	K8BIN	PHIL	8	WB8JPR	BILL	21			
K8BYVB	DEBBIE	7	K8BIM	TOM	1	WB8LCZ	BYRON	2			
K8BZAW	RAY	2	K8BTF	ANN	1	WB8VB	KEN	7			
K8BZEH	DICK	2	K8BWK	STU	20	WB8B	BOB	1			
K8BZKM	STEVE	1	N1JZU	BOB	5	WB8E	WALT	33			
K8CZHC	STEVE	1	N3KLS	JAY	1	WB8FUJ	PHIL	6			
K8CABG	BILL	1	N8CVC	MARY	1	WB8ITB	FRED	1			
K8CARS	HENRY	5	N8DV	FRED	1	WB8RNO	LEN	1			
K8CBU	TED	9	N8DVO	FRED	1	WB8SIW	JIM	1			
K8CBNY	JERRY	1	N8ERV	TOM	4	WB8X	LENNY	4			
K8CBXD	HENRY	8	N8FGB	RICH	1	WB8YZN	CHRIS	5			
K8CBZF	KEN	1	N8FLN	BRUCE	1	WB8Z	LENNY	1			
K8CBPT	DON	39	N8HTV	JOHN	1	WD8CZJ	JACK	22			
K8CBRJ	RON	2	N8HTV	JOHN	10	WD8EEO	CHRIS	1			
K8CBRY	RON	1	N8HUL	DAVE	1	WD8IFL	DAVE	2			
K8CDBG	BILL	5	N8HZE	KEN	19	WD8HW	GEORGE	1			
K8CDBR	BRIAN	71	N8KIC	KEN	5	WD8RNO	LYNN	2			
K8CECB	KEN	4	N8KXL	JERRY	1	WB8T	BRENT	1			
K8CEDK	BRIAN	1	N8KSC	STEVE	1	WB8DEM	DON	2			
K8BEPQ	ROGER	2	N8KSL	JIM	1	WB8VOT	DAVE	10			
K8BFRW	JOHN	4	N8MCD	JIM	9	WB8N	BILL	4			
K8BFYQ	GERALD	1	N8MKG	DENNIS	1	WB8V	KIRK	1			
K8BGFN	DAVE	1	N8MOU	RICHARD	1	WB3L	MICHAEL	2			
K8BQMS	PHIL	3	N8MOU	RICHARD	1	WY8M	ARRAD	7			
K8BGMT	LORA	39	N8NMX	BILL	1						
K8BGNH	KEVIN	1	N8OAE	ERNIE	3						
K8BQWR	FRED	1	N8OEF	VAL	16						
K8BHMV	JANICE	122	N8OEV	DAVE	2						
K8BHMJ	RICH	1	N8OKV	JIM	3						
K8BHNQ	PAT	1	N8OMP	GARY	1						
K8BHRH	MARK	1	N8OZ	JOE	21						
K8BHSY	PAT	1	N8PDP	MICHAEL	61						
K8BYU	JON	68	N8PFR	LEONARD	1						
K8BIAP	MARY	19	N8RAR	WAYNE	25						
K8BIAQ	DAVE	56	N8RHT	RICK	1						
K8BIZG	DAVE	1	N8RRU	GARY	1						

Top 20 VHF Operators

Call	Name	pts
1	K8QLM	RICHARD 170
2	K8BHMV	JANICE 122
3	WB8VB	DAVE 79
4	W1IK	JIM 77
5	K8BLOC	TOM 75
6	K8BDR	BRIAN 71
7	K8BYU	JON 68
8	N8PDP	MICHAEL 61
9	N8YBY	LEONARD 60
10	K8BIAQ	DAVE 56
11	AB8BT	ANDY 48
12	N8SE	JOHN 45
13	K8BNDQ	RAY 42
14	K8BNGY	PAUL 40
15	K8BQPT	DON 39
16	K8BGMT	LORA 39
17	K8BWH	RICHARD 34
18	WB8E	WALT 33
19	K8BHJ	LARRY 32
20	WB8C	PAUL 26

Top HF operators

Call	Name	pts
1	K8QLM	RICHARD 207
2	WY8M	ARRAD 64
3	K8BLOC	TOM 64
4	K8BHMV	JANICE 50
5	N8RAR	WAYNE 44
6	WB8RO	FLOYD 40
7	N8KC	KEN 38
8	K8BTAS	JERRY 31
9	AB8BT	ANDY 30
10	W8TN	BILL 28
11	W1IK	JIM 28
12	W8RN	PHIL 28
13	K8BGMT	LORA 24
14	WB8LR	SAM 24
15	WB8OJ	MARION 22
16	KA2IBE	JOHN 22
17	KABGI	DARREL 14
18	K8VH	DAVE 12
19	WB8FLJ	PHIL 8
20	K8BRF	DAVE 8

Database c/o Jon K8BHYU
Software written by W8BC (Tom)

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

See or call Brian K8BDR, USECA's Net Manager, for more information on running a net and earning extra points.

Jon is having a problem with the sort function. This is printed as submitted.
--Ed.

Construction of Radio Equipment in a Japanese POW Camp

By Lieutenant Colonel R. G. Wells

Transcript of a recording by Lieutenant Colonel R G Wells, on the construction of radio equipment whilst in a Japanese Prisoner of War camp after the fall of Singapore.

It was about the beginning of 1942 when I was a prisoner of war of the Japanese, when I was ordered to go on a working party which eventually finished up in the Sankakan in British North Borneo. Two thousand odd of us were in this work party and it wasn't long before we noticed the absence of information as to the international situation, what was happening in the outside world, and the whole camp had a real craving to get news by whatever means. Escape parties were being organized, but none of these were very successful. The next thing people turned to was a means of getting some radio news, and this is where the building of a radio set became an urgent requirement.

The main thing, of course, was that we didn't have any components and although we had some contacts outside which later on were helpful in the building of this receiver, it limited our requirement to a regenerative receiver as from a superheterodyne receiver and the decision to do that was borne out by the results.

The high frequency spectrum during that time of the war was fairly quiet in that part of the world and the BBC, we hoped, would be able to be received. This was aided by the fact that the Japanese in their wisdom called a friend of mine out one evening to repair their radio set and he took the opportunity, of course, to switch over to the shortwave bands, with headphones while doing that, and picked up the BBC successfully. That day was memorable because it was the day that the BBC broadcast the death of the Duke of Kent in an aircraft crash. That was the only news we had of the outside world for something like six months.

The plan was made to begin building the radio, so until we could build components, there was nothing much we could do. A look at the circuit diagram of a regenerative receiver indicates a number of capacitors—about two or three are required—low capacitors to make the oscillating part of the system work, and in fact from memory we needed in the grid circuit at least one ".01 microfarad" capacitor and there was no chance we could get this anywhere, or

any other components. So we hit upon the idea of taking some tin foil or aluminum foil from the lining of the tea chest from which the Japanese supplied with the rice rations, then by the well known equations for calculating capacity and the relationship of the surface area and spacing of the plates, we built a capacitor or, at least, I built a capacitor which according to calculations should have been about ".01 microfarad."

If I could put an aside here, I built a replica of this capacitor some years ago, and it went out to Simpson barracks where we had some friends in the testing laboratory, and with great excitement the Warrant Officer concerned said, "We will see how good your calculations were"; so he put it on his equipment which was accurate to many decimal points and read on his display unit, ".009 microfarad", so we thought we were pretty good. I said "Touché" to him because he didn't think we could do it. I made two or three of these, and I still have one of them that would work if I built the receiver again, which I have been thinking about doing, except there is always something else, like a lot of other projects which one has as one gets older.

The resistors were another problem. We found out that we could use the impurities in some of the tree wood and the bark, particularly cinnamon bark, 150 bark which was available by getting through the wire only about 2 feet and we could normally pinch that while the Japanese sentry was moving around. We used a piece of string with the material rubbed on it from the burning of the cinnamon bark with some impurities in it (we didn't have a chemical analysis); we weren't very fussed because most grid-leak resistors were about a

megohm or thereabouts and we had no means or any way we could measure a megohm, so it was largely a trial and error thing to see if it would work. We made a number of these bits of string and tied them round different things to dry them out to get the thing going. Eventually about an inch, three quarters of an inch to an inch, was about the right order of things to get about a megohm resistance. They were the two main things. Now the things we couldn't provide, couldn't do. We had to make coils; they were largely trial and error, one could calculate the inductance of these if

one had access to some means of measuring the wire gauge and the space between them. So that was largely a trial and error business.

The two biggest components, or two biggest requirements, were we needed some headphones and we needed a valve, and I thought that the rest could be made locally with a bit of luck. On the question of the headpiece an outside contact smuggled in one headphone, which was better than no headphone, and a valve—no valve holder but one can't have everything in this life. The other trouble was the power supply. The Japanese main around the camp which provided the power was 110 volts roughly according to the power station meter which we couldn't help but see, because we delivered the wood there while the power station was running; I switched over when no one was looking and the frequency was about 60 Hz, not 50 Hz as we thought, not that this worried us anyway but to know that it was manageable.

So two problems remained for the power supply. The first one was the A-battery or low voltage supply necessary for the filament of the valve. We started with a couple of dry cells, but these didn't last very long and we had to make something then. Through being friendly with the pharmacist with the party, we got some potassium dichromate and made up a dichromate cell, which is probably well known in the text books but not of very practical use. It's fairly hungry for zinc and it needs some sulphuric acid which one can't throw around or hide easily, but it served for some time and was quite successful but, in the end, had the operation lasted very long, we would have been in trouble for that. Two of these cells provided about 3 volts to 4 volts, and 6 volts was a bit too much because each cell was running at a bit over 2 volts, about 2.2 volts.

The biggest problem was a rectifier to rectify the AC into DC without dropping it to a low voltage, because remember in those days we needed high voltages for the B supply, or anode supply, but in these days we bring everything down to small DC voltages; we needed to get them up as high as we could. That was a partial failure in that using aluminium foil again and oxidizing one piece of it, or length of it folded over, with some weak acid and then using the two electrodes, one of clear aluminium and one of a zinc salt and aluminium, we could make a rectifier. We wouldn't be so

audacious as to call it a rectifier now, because it had a reverse voltage of something like 30 or 40 volts, which wasn't exactly ideal, but for DC we had no option. The result was that I made a bridge rectifier but the only problem was that after 15 minutes the electrolyte began to boil, so it was really passing current in both directions but a little bit more one way than the other. So a single cell, an extra rectifier cell, was the only way I could close this down a bit, and some smoothing. This we achieved with part of a fish plate from the railway line which was being used at the aerodrome to move the dirt from one place to another by man-power, about six men on these, and the odd fish plate used to disappear anyway for various reasons. I dropped one off at the power station and asked the Chinese under my breath if he could cut it into three little sections which he did, he didn't want to know why.

Then again using some palm oil and some bee wire which was in fairly plentiful supply, which we stole—it was a bit risky because the Japanese were cultivating a couple of beehives outside the wire and of course this wire used to disappear for various things unrelated to radio—and we put the palm oil along the wire stretched out and rubbed this palm oil on it, thickening it with a little bit of flour and then heating it; the flour bound the palm oil together and formed a fairly good insulation over the wire. Good, but lucky, and with a lot of traveling.

I should come back to the capacitors on that, because we had to insulate the layers of those which we did by putting a layer of newspaper (a few people had newspaper and various things, for other reasons than newspaper of course, but then we had no other toilet requisites in the party) and by soaking this in some coconut oil we could insulate each layer after we wound it, and with a piece of this bee wire—we had something like fifty feet of it—wound round this part of the fish plate, we made a fairly good choke coil.

And then a bigger capacitor, which was no trouble, having had success with the small one, to just wrap as much tin foil as we could round another sheet of newspaper which finished up about 18 inches long by about three quarters of an inch in diameter. We didn't even try to measure the capacitance of it, because we couldn't do anything about it anyway, except put more wire on. And that in effect was a fairly good rectifier, a

very dangerous one because we had the 110 all right but we had a bit over that by the time we had rectified it, and we don't know because we had no means of measuring it.

Finally, the valve; we joined the valve by winding the clean little bee wire around it and then plugging it with any insulating material we could get to make it stick—no valve holder, of course. So eventually we produced a receiver of sorts, except it wouldn't oscillate. We tried building more, another choke coil, and this went on for ages; there was no possibility we could get this valve to oscillate. I think it's recommended according to a friend of mine who had an amateur license, he thought that about 120 volts was the best we could get and there was no way we could get that by trying to smooth this any more. So the only avenue open was to bribe one Chinese working at the power station who was very much our way, and of course in those days was a nationalist Chinese. The capital of China in those days was Chunking, and I told him we could get him some overseas news from Chunking if he would slowly wind his field coil power up on the generator every night starting at about 9 o'clock bit by bit, and get it up to about 130 on his meter. He understood, and after that I said half an hour to drop it again, very quietly and slowly because it may affect the lights "...and you no speak about that because you get chopped, you know, and we will give you Chunking news..." This was duly done and for about six months we had reliable communication. The first trial on air had too much hum, and we had to modify a few things two or three times in attempts to get it right, and in the end we had a workable situation which was worth exploring. Capacitors right, choke coils right, one head phone, we had some old rag so we tied it round the head and tied it on, or string, or whatever we could get. With the hope of recording something we took some paper, which wasn't in plentiful supply, but the odd piece of paper we could get. Running notches down the left hand side, about a quarter to a half inch apart down the paper, and bending it over so that these little pieces stuck up in the air, and in the pitch darkness one could then put the headphones over one's head with eyes looking out for possible interruption by the Japanese—we had some lookouts, or cockatoos as the Australians called them, around the place to warn us at the oncoming of the

Japanese—and with great trepidation we heard Big Ben chiming one night. Of course only one of us heard it but we were so full of enthusiasm. It was the BBC all right; it was quite a clear signal but it was somebody talking about growing hops in Kent. This broadcast went on for something like three quarters of an hour without any interruption, but ultimately the signal faded out and I was very annoyed. I was asked the next morning by my senior officer what was the news, and I said "we've got good news; I can't talk here, come this way." So he came along and said, "what's this news you're talking about." I said I didn't actually hear any news, and he became very annoyed with me and said what the hell did I mean, and I said "if the British primary producing experts are capable and able to spare the time to talk about growing hops in Kent, Britain must still be alive and floating with their thumbs up, and as far as I'm concerned that's the best news I could hear!"

That's the outline and maybe there are some questions I haven't covered properly. BJ: The first question I would like to ask you is: What did you have in the way of tools, if any, and how did you connect the components of the wireless without, presumably, a soldering iron?

RGW: No soldering iron, no solder of course, and no other system really available but to twist and wrap with some coconut oil paper, or cardboard or something, and very gently lift it. It was on a platen of wood we obtained somewhere; it was about a foot by a foot or something, so we just mounted the components on that. A meat skewer on the capacitor—oh, we had a capacitor too, a capacitor, a valve and a head-phone, which were external to camp components we had. We didn't have any tools at all, except someone obtained the use of a sledge hammer—for what purpose I don't know because one of those would not be needed to escape; other than cutting up the soft iron of the fish plate which was about the only reason we needed anything, the rest were just twisted wires.

We just wanted to get one usable because we didn't know whether it might be blown up or captured; we weren't worried, the main thing was initially a short term aim (as well as a long term aim) that it might last. Fortunately, it lasted for over a year—sixteen months until the arrests took place, but that's another story.

BJ: Can I just ask you—the components for the low voltage battery cells

RGW: Well, zinc wasn't hard, there was some sheet zinc lying on the aerodrome and we pinched quite a bit of that because that would be eaten away during the use of the cells for the low voltage. I don't know what would have happened if that ran out. I think someone produced two lantern cells which did for a while, but it was mainly on this home-made cell system, which wasn't efficient but nowhere near as inefficient as the rectifier was. We must have been consuming... Ah Ping said he had to turn up a lot of power to keep the lights what they wanted. We were dispersing such an amount of power in this four test tube rectifier for the high tension. A variable capacitor was another component we had to bring in. We couldn't make a variable capacitor, it was impossible. We had to take two plates off the one we had to get a high enough frequency. Yes, I can't remember why we didn't go up a bit in inductance; it was largely a trial and error business really. Except that in a regenerative receiver you had some idea

when you were near a station because the receiver was so sensitive as all regenerative receivers are. It had a piece of meat skewer type wood which I had a hole drilled in by a pen-knife, and we glued this in with some of our glue or something, into the capacitor shaft so that we could tune it by holding a little stick across it, fixing it at about six inches because one couldn't get one's hands any closer to the set because it was in a state of very near oscillation where the maximum sensitivity is, just before it bursts into oscillation. With a fairly clear HF band, it wasn't long before we knew roughly, by putting a couple of marks on the stick, where it was. We knew that the Voice of America was due for a transmission and I don't think we ever knew the frequencies because the BBC didn't announce frequencies, they just came on the air and broadcast.

BJ: What did you use for an aerial?

RGW: A clothes line. All the huts had a clothes line of some sort so we just took a thin wire from that and wrapped it round the edge, knowing that a normal sentry wouldn't take any notice of it, and we just dragged that across the side of the hut and brought it in, and the people with our permission would put their loin cloths out and hang them over this when they washed them so it looked as if it was being used. The toilet in the sleeping block was a hole in the ground and it was verboten to be used by anybody except to put our radio set in

when it wasn't in use; everybody respected our wishes in that regard!

I think the best thrill was, well two or three thrills, which were momentous I suppose and of great excitement, almost excitement of crying with excitement, and the first was I think when we heard a full news bulletin of something like 400 aircraft over Dresden or somewhere, pounding the place to pieces; we were very pleased about all this. But from the land point of view, from the beginning of '42 I think, I can't remember, but sometime just before the Battle of Alamein, and we heard some of the troop movements in preparation for that. The bulletins in those days were fairly long and gave a lot of detail.

Unfortunately the first lot of rectifiers blew up about 2 days after this so we were out of business for something like 5 or 6 weeks. Of course, the rumors started to flood in as to what was happening, what wasn't happening, the war would be over in 5 minutes and all these mainly optimistic things; but there were a few super-pessimists who said we would never get off the island, and would die there, and that sort of thing. But the thrill, I think, was when reception was restored again and we had to do another little bit of fine tuning because everything you changed seemed to affect something else; the whole thing was very sensitive and wouldn't have stood up to present day quality assurance bump tests!

So back there on the first night we missed the BBC for some reason, and the next thing was the Voice of America which had a headline which ran something like this: "The war is over in North Africa, Rommel is knocked to pieces, he's out of the Middle East and the Middle East is finished, the future for this and that..." That was the end of the American news in about three sentences! No other detail, so I said we would go back at about 12.30, and hope that Ah Ping hadn't pulled the voltage down too far, to see what we could hear. Again, the BBC was a little low but it suddenly came quite bright and lifted in volume, and Big Ben chimed again and there was a voice in the wilderness calling. It was a lovely sensation to hear Big Ben playing in those days, and every time I hear it now I become excited. The announcement, initially in a most depressing vein, described all about the 8th Army's movements, and it was here that it did this, and this regiment drew up and did that, on and on this went for something like 15 to 20 minutes, and we

tried not to follow it because we had our eyes on too many other things, look-outs and so on. But a lovely flow of English and if you had a tracing board you could have traced out exactly where everything was in situ, but of course that wasn't the aim of our exercise which was to get news. At the finish of the news the polite sentence said "It must be considered now that as all resistance in North Africa has been overcome the Allies victory must be "assured" or something like that. And that was all he said, but he took a few minutes to describe everything that happened, so you had a clear picture. But the Americans seemed to be creating for a public that just wanted the headlines, three headlines and that was all; no other interest in anything else. That was one of the happy moments of the system. We had the problem, of course, of writing the news because naturally a lot of people wanted to know it and a lot of people could be told it without its origin. This is why we used the piece of paper we took with us (Gordon Waite and the other officer who used to share some of the work), and as soon as we heard about 30 bombers over Dresden or something, you just put 30 BD, or B for Berlin, and feel the paper down when you felt it coming to the end, and pick up the next little bit of bend and write along that in the pitch dark, hoping that you've got something in the morning. Surprising how legible it was, just triggered a couple of words like that. Unfortunately, I was in deep custodianship with the Kempitai when the Atom Bombs were dropped and I didn't hear that news on the BBC; it was relayed to me. We didn't keep these things, of course.

Getting off the technical side now, the radio set didn't betray itself. Some criticism could be leveled at us I suppose. We trusted too many people; we had no intelligence training then, of course, or anything like that and we were inclined to trust every Asian we met who smiled at us and who said he was one of us. Anyway, while this was going on at the aerodrome and once the troops heard, we had to tell the troops the good news of course. We said we had heard from an unknown source that the war is getting better, or something like that—we had to give them a sanitized version. It was probably all they wanted but, naturally, two or three senior officers wanted to know as much as they could because they may be the ones who would have to take some decisions one day about it.

Unknown to us an Indian—I don't like saying this and I'm not being racist, it could have been any nationality—blackmailed a Chinese who was helping us on the aerodrome picking up bits of iron for us and various other things. He blackmailed him but the Chinese wouldn't talk, so the Kempitai arrested the Chinese and put him on a rack; he mentioned in the course of his cries for help—which was not a nice thing to think about but I don't blame him—he mentioned Captain Matthews and a couple of other people; I think I would have done the same thing at that stage.

The Japanese then decided to make a raid on the camp, which they did, and I was then charged and taken away by the Captain; he wanted the receiver and I gave it to him in the end after a lot of leading him round the camp with his soldiers. I could almost laugh at some of the things that happened. He must have told them he was looking for a radio set; a Jap soldier came running up to him with a piece of metal which looked like a piece of horse harness or something; the Captain almost kicked him and told him what to do.

So in the end I decided that I couldn't talk to anybody before the rest of the troops on this parade ground, and I felt so conspicuous. He walked back and said "Are you going to tell me because we want the wireless set?", so I said "Yes, I've just thought where it might be". So I went across and told him where the hole was, and they dug the hole up and, of course, there was the transmitter. He said "Ah, you've been sensible at last", so he took the transmitter and they took it away.

From that day on, I was worried about this because I knew the receiver was OK and the troops would be happy about that; they would still be able to get news. And then he took me up to the platform where he stood and addressed everyone. All he said in English was "You all look at this man, you will never see him again" and led me off. I had a sort of a dying wish, going in on the vehicle to Sandakan to be interrogated, that somehow or other this set could be preserved and, of course unknown to me, it was.

They continued using it but not until after about a week or so—their nerves were a bit shaken. But they used it for some months afterwards until the big moves came and it was a successful source of morale lifter.

During the trial, that was when the shock came to me when this transmitter was brought out by the prosecution as evidence that we had been using a receiver, but the Court accepted it. It was never mentioned after that because had it been, I don't think either of us would have been alive, because we had planned to get some crystals from the Philippines and try and fit them in this set then we could call them on CW and give them some news about ourselves. But we did get some news by other means, via an agent taking a sandalwood vessel across, that the British and Australian authorities knew where we were, and it was proved at the end of the war that they knew exactly where to come for us. They had guerilla parties in behind the lines, but they couldn't contact us and they had to watch some of our people just die virtually, because they were there and

there would have been trouble otherwise.

BJ: Could I just take you back and ask you to fill in a few details about the transmitter. You talked a lot about the construction of the receiver and I would be very interested to know where the transmitter fitted in to this; were you developing that alongside?"

RGW: "No, the receiver first; we had that, and then we started the transmitter as a rather low priority of course, but one it would be nice to have. I had finished the two 6L6's to make a push-pull amplifier that was the RF output to be, and the oscillator, and we had the capacitor but were missing a few more components and that was about where we were. In other words, in the course of events, had he been an expert with some sort of knowledge of electrical engineering, we would never have got away with two 6L6's sitting up on a block of wood with a few capacitors and things hanging on them, but obviously the Court Martial officers were normal, without disrespect to Infantry Officers, and they had no knowledge of telecommunications.

BJ: Again, the valves you used in the receiver were...?"

RGW: Only one, that's all we had, which was brought in by Mr. Mabey. He smuggled in a pipe to me, a smoking pipe, with some tobacco. Lovely gentleman. Unfortunately, I never had long with him, he died soon after being arrested. His widow lived at Hove with her sister; the two are deceased now.

End of recording.

—Submitted by Richard, KC8HMJ and Dave, KC8IZG

General and Extra Class Amateurs Skyrocket

While the total number of radio amateurs has not increased significantly (a mere one half of one percent), the number of General and Extra Class amateurs has surged! There are 15,322 (20%) more Extra Class amateurs than a year ago, 17,806 (16%) more Generals—a total of 33,128 upgrades. This, of course, was caused by the elimination of the 13 and 20 wpm telegraphy examination. The increases come at the expense of the Advanced and Tech Plus Class.

Here is a comparison of the total number of amateurs by license class over the past four years. Figures are as of the end of June.

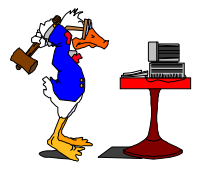
License Class	6/30 1997	6/30 1998	6/30 1999	6/30 2000
Extra	73737	74274	75113	90435
Advanced	107024	104509	103705	90935
General	116629	112977	110838	128644
Tech Plus	139608	135737	134161	112046
Technician	174924	186459	197681	208834
Novice	66551	60125	54502	48441
Total	678473	674080	676000	679235

—The W5YI Report
—Submitted by George, K8GEO

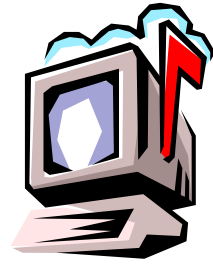
Members E-Mail Directory

N8ARO, Al: n8aro@arrl.net
 ★W8BLP, Barb: quixnet.net
 KA8CBZ, Bill: like2cruz@worldnet.att.net
 K8CFY, Jerry: irish12@juno.com
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 WB8FUI, Phil: wb8fui@yahoo.com
 KC8GMS, Phil: pmorell@tir.com
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U
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A



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 WB8X, Lenny: lsmith@rust.net
 N8XNM, Ray: rmacha@mich.com
 KB8YLB, Ed: kb8ylb@yahoo.com
 KB8YYA, Dreux: kb8yya@arrl.net
 KB8YYB, Debbi: cuer@juno.com
 K8ZEC, John: k8zec@tir.com



"YOU'VE GOT MAIL!"

★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.

This is . . . The USECA Repeater System!

USECA Board Meeting Minutes—June 6, 2000

In attendance:

- *KB8YYB, Debbi President
- KB8QMS, Nancy Vice-President
- KG8IF, Ann Recording Secretary
- *N8TMJ, Marianne Membership Secretary
- KC8JSH, Delphine Treasurer
- KC8IAQ, Dave Board Member
- W8IR, Mark Board Member
- N8KLX, Jerry Board Member
- W8DFG, Dennis Past President
- K8CFY, Jerry Historian
- K8OEF, Joe Express Editor
- W8VB, Dave ARRL Liaison
- *Absent



Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Nancy, KB8QMS, Vice-President.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was presented by Delphine KC8JSH and approved.

Membership report: no report.

Technical committee report, John, K8ZEC: Backup repeater almost ready to install. Still working on it. Also working on the Waterford site. Repeater is stable, no problems. Dennis, W8DFG made the motion to buy the antenna needed for the Detroit site and Dave KC8IAQ 2nd. Motion passed.

USECA summer picnic: Brian, KC8DIR and Laura will handle the picnic. Approved by the BOD.

Express: no report.

ARRL: Dave, W8VB made a request to the BOD - any contact/correspondence made with the ARRL or QST, please cc Dave, W8VB with your communication.

Old business:

FD: Jerry, N8KLX - plans progressing well. Will be 17a.

FD kitchen: Dennis, W8DFG stated tent/canvas repair will be on Saturday, June 10, 9 AM. Will also try to get the stoves/griddles cleaned this Saturday.

Swap: Dave, KC8IAQ submitted a budget for \$1270.

Floyd, W8RO gave a report on the June MARC meeting.

Club call sign: Nancy reported that we would not get it by FD. The application will be resubmitted by Jerry, N8KLX

Christmas Party: Ann, KG8IF reported on the plans. This year's party will be held at the Carpathia Club on Friday night, December 8. Cost will be \$17.00 per person. Cash bar. Details to follow in September.

New Business:

Jim W1IK proposed a trader's post and helpers' net, Sunday night at 8:00. No net points. Technical support to be offered following the trading. Dave KC8IAQ made motion, Ann 2nd, Jim approved as net control.

Joe, K8OEF will do the net Tuesday night net in July and August with an Internet connection available for check ins.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Manor, KG8IF, Recording Secretary

Election for Board Member at September's meeting.

USECA General Meeting Minutes—June 13, 2000

In attendance:

- *KB8YYB, Debbi President
- KB8QMS, Nancy Vice-President
- KG8IF, Ann Recording Secretary
- N8TMJ, Marianne Membership Secretary
- KC8JSH, Delphine Treasurer
- KC8IAQ, Dave Board Member
- W8IR, Mark Board Member
- *N8KLX, Jerry Board Member
- W8DFG, Dennis Past President
- *Absent

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-President, Nancy, KB8QMS at 7:30 PM. Meeting was held in the school parking lot.

Nancy, KB8QMS announced that Debbi, KB8YYB recently resigned from the presidency. She and Jerry, KB8TAS are retiring and relocating. A special election is to be held following the business portion of the meeting to fill the vacancy.

The minutes were accepted as printed in the Express.

The treasurer's report was presented and accepted.

Membership: Marianne, N8TMJ reported: 238 members.

Repeater: John, K8ZEC stated there would be no tech meeting next week.

Nets: Brian, KC8DIR announced a trader's net would start up in September on Sunday nights. Details to be forthcoming.

H & W - Marianne, N8TMJ gave report. Condolences to Marianne on the loss of her father. Congratulations to Jim, N8MCD on his marriage.

FD kitchen report: Dennis, W8DFG requested everyone pick up pans tonight for the FD pass-a-dish. Thanks to those who helped with tent repair last week.

USECA summer picnic - to be held 8/27/00 - Brian, KC8DIR and Laura are in charge of this event.

Swap: Dave, KC8IAQ - will be seeking volunteers, especially for the kitchen.

Christmas Party: Ann, KG8IF announced the new location will be the Carpathia Club, to be held on Friday night, December 8. Details provided at the September meeting.

Old/New Business:

George, K8GEO still needs volunteers 7/15,16 for the MS 2-day bike tour for communications. Also need hams to monitor siren tests in Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills.

Ed, N8RUJ requested volunteers to provide communications and assist with security at fireworks display, Shelby Twp. Park, June 28, form 5 PM to 11 PM.

Dennis, W8DFG opened nominations for the vacancy of president. Nancy, KB8QMS stated she would run. Dennis made a motion that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot electing Nancy for the position. Brian, KC8DIR 2nd the motion. Motion passed. Nancy, KB8QMS is now the club president.

Nominations for the office of Vice-President were opened. Nominees were: Mary, KC8IAP, Mark, W8IR, Dave, W8VB, Laura Klovski. Paper ballots were cast.

Mark, W8IR was elected to the position.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM. The annual club foxhunt followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Manor, KG8IF, Recording Secretary

Know Code —From Page 1

Reliable? I don't know about that! I've seen a lot of gobblygook on the inanimate object known as a computer when it tries to copy digital communications.

More efficient? I'm curious, which new modern mode is more frequency efficient? I can turn my filter down to 50 Hz on a half-way decent CW signal. Which other mode can be so frequency efficient?

Equipment efficiency? Right off, you need a computer for digital, right? I take my CW computer with me everywhere! It's permanently attached to me.

Accurate? How are any of the voice modes more accurate? Work much DX? How, in listening to an English-speaking foreign-accented voice station with static crashes on the bands, going to enable you to copy more accurately what he's transmitting?

So, based on the article, we should abandon ALL voice operations immediately and resort to the highest efficiency form of digital communications available. When something supersedes that, we'll change to it and abandon all others before it. If it's more modern or faster, it MUST be better, right?

3. Neither is learning any voice modes. If you'd like to contribute to the advancement of the "radio art," then abandon any and all forms of voice or data modulation presently used by hams. They are all old. All cutting edge RF communications now use bizarre versions of spread spectrum or digital time domain "modes." Throw away all your radios now!

4. Really? The ability to learn a new skill in no way displays an individual's capabilities? Gaining knowledge is no longer a viable indicator? What, pray tell, is?

Oh, and what evidence exists that Morse code proficiency does not help create a "desirable, motivated, or better qualified operator"?

5. Really? We've had grade school kids get extras, blind persons get them, old, young, disabled, etc. You name a demographic category, and someone in that group got their 20 wpm extra! The only barrier I've ever seen (10 year VE) is motivation.

6. CW is primarily a recreational mode? Yep. So is SSB, FM, AM, packet, and the rest! So? This is amateur radio, not business. What'd ya expect?

In retrospect, it's not as clear now, is it? Quite foggy, actually. I'd

almost think there was a Clinton-esque spin doctor at work here!

Oh, don't worry. I'm not a great proponent of the ARRL either. I've often felt they've sold us out! Every time I get close to signing up, they go and do something stupid again; like supporting and facilitating the dumbing down of our testing requirements aka "restructuring."

On another note...

Ever notice that 'they' only talk about the code requirements being reduced? Has anyone noticed the total number of questions to get from CB+ to extra is substantially smaller now? Do the math. How many questions were there in the five pools before April 15th to get from nothing to extra? How many now? Remember how 'they' said the reduction in code requirements would be compensated for in the question pools? How exactly is this to happen when less questions are being asked?

(sigh)

Hope this new "modern" testing philosophy doesn't make it's way into the medical fields.

In The News —From Page 1

Paul, 14 years old and a freshman, has been very involved in Eisenhower High School's 'Quiz Bowl' team and has traveled extensively since the team took 1st place in Michigan and went on to national level competition—ask Paul for the latest details!

On Field Day, USECA was honored with a plaque from Governor Engler, citing the efforts of Michigan Amateurs in emergency preparedness and civil assistance. Our Field Day effort was also visited and toured by several ARRL regional representatives—Dick Mondro, our Section Manager, among them. I was told by one of our guests at 15 CW, a photographer and publicity agent

for the ARRL, that we stand a good chance of appearing in QST yet *again!*

Lora (KC8GMT) is mentioned almost monthly in QST's 'Section News' for her efforts in traffic handling with the NTS and SEMTN (for extra points at Field day, I helped by originating a couple of Radio-grams—got to hear 'em being passed along that night on the 'Edison' repeater's traffic net).

World Radio magazine, in the article 'Club Huddle' (August 2000, Page 44), tells what it is about USECA that makes us stand out from the rest of the crowd. I sent the author, Mike Flaherty (WA6UBW), a packet of information about USECA, a small article, and

the URL for USECA's web-site, (which he *obviously* took a peek at).

Phil (W8IC) was listed in August's QST 160m contest results with a 3rd in-the-State finish (in the 100W power class)! Overall, 202 QSO's and 45 ARRL sections for 18,180 points! In June's QST, Don (WX3M), as a part of the multi-op station K8CC took first place in the multi-op class in the Central Region (Central Division, Great Lakes Division, Ontario Section) in the ARRL November '99 CW Sweepstakes—a score of 164,636 points (1042 QSO's & 79 ARRL sections!). In the same contest, Lora (KC8GMT) finished 18th statewide (24,064 points, 188 QSO's, and 64 ARRL sections). In July's QST, WX3M, KC8GMT, & KA8NDY (Dan)

USECA Cork Board

▶ Radio "Stuff" ◀

ALINCO DJ-C4T UHF H.T. with manual and battery charger. Mint condition. \$50.00. Richard, K8QLM, (810) 731-4475.

BEAM, 15M 3 ele, used for FD twice, otherwise stored inside, w/balun and manual, \$150. WY8M 810-751-3804 or wy8m@home.com

★ESTATE Sale Kenwood Dual Band Mobile Transceiver TM742-A with detachable face and a Diamond Dual Band Antenna \$400. Heathkit Model 10-102 Oscilloscope \$50, Kenwood HF TS 940 transceiver, including matching speaker with audio filters, MC80 Desk mike, MC 43 hand mike, HS Headphones, LF30 low pass filter, RS232 module \$1200. Kenwood SM220 station monitor scope \$250. Acopian PS A24/1200 24V/12A linear regulated power supply \$75.

MFJ 557 Key code practice unit \$25. NCG 2000 VHF/UHF Power/SWR meter (dual range 50 to 200 w) \$75. Call Dave Martin W8VB (810) 826-9783.

SALE. 2-Meter Stick antenna w/approx. 12' co-ax. \$20. (810)-786-5442 KC8BIU, Ted.

★SONY ICF-2010, One of the best world band portable radio receivers ever made, full AM band coverage (LW/MW/SW) plus FM and Air Band reception, current production, new in box, manuals & accessories, \$300. Call George, K8GEO, (248) 651-8615.

TEN-TEC; complete station. Omni-C transceiver; model 255 power supply/speaker; model 229 antenna tuner (re-strung by T.T. Spring '99); model 243 remove VFO; model 444 linear amplifier. All units are mint condition, with manuals. Package deal only. \$1,400. OBO. Richard, K8QLM, (810) 731-4475.

WANTED: Alinco 2 meter credit card HT for high altitude balloon project; ontact Phil W8IC at (810) 751-3893, or w8ic@arrl.net.

▶ Miscellaneous Items ◀

EPSON Apex Action Printer L1000, 24 pin dot matrix printer. Excellent condition and works beautifully. Comes with tractor feed, as well as plain paper feed; owners manual and software. First \$20 takes it. Call Floyd at (248) 391-6660 or e-mail: hires@rust.net.

FISHER studio standard bookshelf stereo system. Like new condition, plastic cover. PLL digital fm/am stereo tuner, Two deck cassette tape player/copier, record changer on top, graphic equalizer, CD player. Very little to no use. Model MC-750. \$85.00. Dan, WA8GQL.

GMC '92 Typhoon. Turbocharged, inter-cooled V6 w/AWD, ABS, CD and alarm. Very fast, looks great, runs great and always garaged. 92K miles. \$16K obo. Floyd, W8RO; (248) 391-6660 or floyd@hirescom.com.

OLDSMOBILE '97 Aurora, silver, 42K miles, loaded, excellent condx. Contact Floyd, W8RO, at (248) 391-6660 or floyd@hirescom.com.

★New or changed this month.
Notify the editor to have items added and/or removed.

The Cork Board is for club members only and it's free!

Have you changed your call sign recently? If you have, please notify Marianne, N8TMJ our club's membership secretary. If you don't tell her, who will?

FOR SALE

Battery isolator for vehicle. New in box. Unknown size. No paperwork. \$40.

★27" Admiral TV, 3yrs. Old; \$170.

Portable B&W TV 5"; \$10.

Uniden BC60XLT hand held VHF/UHF 30ch scanner; \$60.

★Realistic home CD player, works; \$10.

Wilson ProStaff ladies graphite golf club set, w/bag & more, like new; \$200.

★440 Ringo Ranger II; \$15.

CB antenna 4' fiberglass; NEW; \$5.

Sony CDP591 CD player; \$25.

★Xerox 6010 Memorywriter electric typewriter; \$10.

Contact Arpad WY8M; 810-751-3804 or wy8m@home.com

Manhattan —From Page 1

Grace, Char, Marilyn, Marge, Colleen, Janice, Marianne, and Peg were there to put the spread out, and away. I never once asked anyone to do K.P. This year's kitchen ran like a well-oiled machine.

Also thanks to one and all that helped set-up and strike the tents, the people that went across the street to get the grills and put them away, which is not an easy job.

If I did not mention your name, please to not take offense to this, it is not intentional. Everyone's help was greatly appreciated. I have already started on next year's menu to make it as big a success as this year's kitchen was.

**Again, THANKS to one and all.
73, Dennis, W8 Dah Food Guy**

Y2K 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. HF < 30 MHz, VHF > 30 MHz. (NOTE: Check-ins should do so *personally*, proxy check-ins are legitimate *only* for members on club business. "In & Out" check-ins, though allowed, are discouraged.)

✓2) Awards are earned for 50 points and multiples thereof; plaques for the highest annual HF and VHF scores. Awards are meant to encourage **participation** and can be earned by any licensed amateur.

✓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 logs to the Awards Manager within 30 days; logs received later will not earn the bonus points normally awarded a NCO. MAIL logs to: Jon, KC8HYU, 19351 Todd Drive, Clinton Twp., MI 48038; E-Mail: kc8hyu@home.com.

✓5) If *you* notice any errors in the database, wrong or changed call signs, misspelled names, etc., let Jon know ASAP.

USECA APPLICATION



DATE _____ NEW RENEWAL
 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

Rev. 12/98

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY:

CALL _____	CLASS _____	CALL _____	CLASS _____
NAME _____		NAME _____	
BIRTHDATE _____		BIRTHDATE _____	
MEMBER: ARRL <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		MEMBER: ARRL <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
RACES <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		RACES <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

Annual Membership Dues Regular: \$20 — Family: \$30 — 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**
 (Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.)



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	146.760
SUN	9:00 pm	HPARC/DART	146.640
SUN	9:00 pm	Garden City ARC	146.860
SUN-SAT	10:15 pm	S. E. Michigan Traffic Net	145.330
SUN-SAT		MACEOC (Packet)	145.030
MON	7:30 pm	SATERN	147.180
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	9:00 pm	Motor City Radio Club	147.240
WED	8:00 pm	GMARC	146.700
WED	8:00 pm	SPIRIT of '76/Info./Traders	146.760
WED	9:00 pm	ARPSC	145.490
WED	9:00 pm	MICHIGAN QRP	145.170
THU	7:00 pm	HPARC/Kids	146.640
THU	8:00 pm	RACES/ARES	147.200
THU	8:00 pm	EDISON/Information	145.330
THU	9:00 pm	ECHO	147.080
FRI	Midnite	USECA/Hoot Owl	147.180

On The World Wide Web

USECA Home Page

WWW.USECA.ORG

Net Ops Schedules

2-METER NETS

	SUN. 1 PM	MON. 9 PM**	TUES. 8 PM	FRI. MIDNIGHT
WEEK	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz	147.180 MHz
1	KG8IF	N8OEF	K8QLM	KC8IAQ
2	W8IR	W1IK	-Meeting-	KC8MWW
3	K8QLM	N8OEF	KC8IAP	KC8DIR
4	AB8BT	W1IK	W8IR	KC8HYU
5*	WB8E	N8OEF	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

**Slow Code

HF NETS

	THURS. 9 PM	FRI. 10 PM	FRI. 11 PM
WEEK	21.140 MHz/CW	21.140 MHz/CW	28.425 MHz/USB
1	K8QLM	-OPEN-	KC8LOC
2	N8MOJ	W8RO	KA2IBE
3	W8RO	W8IC	K8QLM
4	AA8DD	WB8E	-OPEN-
5*	-OPEN-	-OPEN-	-OPEN-

*If applicable

NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement
 or contact Brian, KC8DIR (810) 749-4561—Don't wait!

USECA Hot Line: (810) 268-6730

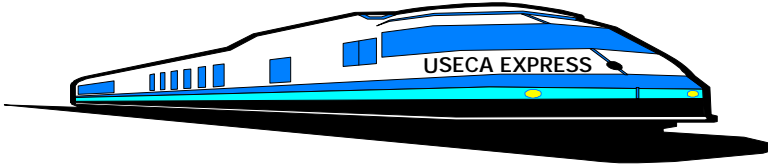
USECA

UTICA SHELBY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 1222 • Sterling Heights, MI 48311-1222

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WARREN, MI
PERMIT NO. 289**



SEPTEMBER 2000

USECA . . . Your Final Answer!

"The Happenin' Club"

Club Activities

MONTH	DATE	TIME	EVENT
SEP	4		Michigan Peach Festival Parade
SEP	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting
SEP	22-24		Campout—Western—Algonac
OCT	10	7:30 pm	General Meeting
OCT	22		USECA Swap
OCT	27-29		Campout—Halloween—Algonac
NOV	14	7:30 pm	General Meeting—Nominations
DEC	8	7:00 pm	13th Annual Christmas Party
DEC	12	7:30 pm	General Meeting—Elections

[Received at Press Time]

I've been listening to the repeater off and on this past week down here in Americana, SP, Brasil (Brasil is the proper spelling for the rest of the world. We Americans spell it Brazil.) which is about 150 km NW of Sao Paulo. It is the middle of winter here—the temperature here today is about 55F and it is cloudy and raining off and on. You ought to see these people bundled up in their parkas and gloves. The repeater is 59+ and sounding good on the streaming audio feed. Thanks for the little touch of home. Talk to some of you soon. 73 es CUL, Jim, K8FT

Swaps

Day	Month	Date	Where
SUN	OCT	22	USECA
SAT,SUN	NOV	18-19	Fort Wayne
SUN	DEC	3	L'Anse Creuse

Source: N8ARO

6-METER NETS

	WED 7 PM	WED 8 PM
WEEK	50.150 MHz/USB	51.740 MHz/FM
1	–OPEN–	–OPEN–
2	KC8IAQ	K8QLM
3	N8YBY	KC8HYU
4	W8VB	W8VB
5*		–OPEN–

**If applicable*

NCO's—If you're unable to take your net please get a replacement or contact Brian, KC8DIR (810) 749-4561—Don't wait!