



W8KEA

MARC



MIDLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
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#### LIFE MEMBERS

Jack W8PHG, Larry K8SQB, Don W8WOJ, Lee KC8ITI, Raleigh W8QOI (SK)

Midland County Public Service Net, Thursdays at 9 PM

W8KEA Repeater — 147.000 MHz+ PL 103.5 • W8QN Repeater — 443.325 MHz+ PL 103.5

W8KEA Digipeater — 145.090 MHz

Next ARES®/RACES Meeting — Thursday November 4, 2010

Next CLUB MEETING — Thursday November 4, 2010

Salvation Army Building, 330 Waldo 7:30 PM

Talk-in on 147.000 MHz +

#### November 2010

### ***View from the Top of the Tower***

***Lee Hodges, KC8ITI***

I hope you're getting your shack ready for the long cold winter months. I've been working on getting my HF antenna ready and I've made some progress to that end. On some bands, I'm not happy with the SWR match and I'm asking a lot from the tuners I'm using. I'd like to get some more wire in the air before it really gets cold outside. I'm looking forward to those friendly voices and signals coming in from all over the world when the snow is piling up and wind is howling outside the shack.

It wasn't the best day we could've had for the club picnic but we made the best of it. Thanks to all of you that joined us for an afternoon of good food, good company and lively conversation. We didn't solve all of the problems of the world or even all the problems of amateur radio but we sure gave it a try.

We have four students in our Technician class this fall. We've had one drop out but we gained one late starter so we still have four in the class. We are using a new edition of the manual and, of course, we are dealing with a new question pool so it's a learn-

**When all else fails ...  
...Amateur Radio!**



ing experience for the instructors too. We've decided that we tried to cover way too much material in the first couple of classes and we'll have to shorten them up or break them up into two separate classes. If we shorten the lesson, we might leave out something that is important for our students to know. If we add another class then we

#### **MARC MEETINGS**

Chris Rose, KB8UIH, is in charge of special events and topics for the MARC monthly meetings. If you have any agenda items, or topics for the meetings, please contact Chris at (989) 832-7179, or via e-mail: kb8uih@arri.net

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Pat Mullet, KC8RTW, is in charge of communications and publicity for the club. If you have any questions or ideas regarding these areas, please contact Pat at kc8rtw@arri.net

#### **EXAMINATION SCHEDULE**

*Saginaw* - All future VE testing will be done on an appointment basis only.

*Corunna* - Contact Thomas Carpenter (517) 579-0599 ki8as@charter.net.

*Bay City* - All future VE testing will be done on an appointment basis only.

*Isabella/Clare Counties* - Contact Gus Glass, K8GUS at k8gus@arri.net

With all examinations, your original license, a copy of that license, a second photo identification (drivers license, etc.) and a check or money order for \$15.00 made out to "ARRL/VEC" are required.

The address listed below gives testing sessions scheduled for Michigan. <http://www.arri.org/arrivec/exam-search.phtml?State=MI>

#### **AUTOPATCH**

All Midland Club members have autopatch privileges. If you do not have the instructions, contact N8CGP for a copy. Please do not pass on your copy.

#### **SUBMISSIONS FOR NEWSLETTER**

Contact Pat Mullet, KC8RTW at kc8rtw@arri.net if you want to submit anything for the newsletter.

I need your items by the 15th of the month. Anything received after that may not make it into the newsletter for that month.

If you prefer to download the MARC newsletter from our web site, or have trouble with delivery via USPS, contact Michael, KB4EIZ, at kb4eiz@yahoo.com.

#### **MEDIA HITS!**

Have you seen or heard mention of the Midland Amateur Radio Club in the news or in the paper? If so, please forward it, or mention of it to either Pat, KC8RTW (kc8rtw@arri.net) or Lee, KC8ITI (kc8iti@arri.net)

will extend the overall class time needed. The bad news is that by the time we get it just right there will be a new question pool and a new book, which means we get to start all over again.

The club equipment auction will conclude at the end of the November meeting. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for the list of equipment we have up for bid. If you would like to place a bid give Bill, AB8JF or me a call. If you would like to see the equipment, Bill has it at his place so make arrangements with him to take a peek at it. If you would like to know what the current high bid is on a piece of equipment then give me a call.

Pat, KD8IVZ, Wendy, KD8IWB, and I made it down to the estate sale of Gary Bortles, KB8IPU (SK). As well advertised as this was I expected a long line to get into the sale. At 10 o'clock the doors were opened for all ten of us eager buyers. An email was sent out with all of the items that would be for sale so we went prepared with our "must have" list in hand. I was able to secure most of the stuff on my "A" list and made a good effort on my secondary list. Of course, I ended up bringing some stuff home that wasn't on either list but I just couldn't leave it sitting there.

The ARRL sponsors various operating contests throughout the year. As part of these contests, certain plaques and awards are issued. Most of these awards are sponsored by companies, groups or individuals. Kevin, KB8QWQ and Keith, KB8SOE, have sponsored a CW plaque in honor of Raleigh, W8QOI. They are gathering contributions to keep this sponsorship going into future years. They are also looking into other awards to sponsor. If you would like more information on this ARRL program or would like to make a contribution, give Kevin or Keith a call.

Jack, NX8A is working with the Midland County Search and Rescue group on putting together a group purchase of radios. He has narrowed in on a couple of different units and is looking for people who may be interested in obtaining a new handheld. Of course, the more radios he can order the cheaper the overall cost. Contact Jack for more information.

Our club will be participating in the Midland Santa Parade again this year. The date is November 20<sup>th</sup>. Dorie, N8WTQ is looking for contributions of candy or

money to buy candy to pass out along the route. For more details on this, contact Dorie.

Don't forget to mark your calendars on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for our club Christmas Party at Lee Township Hall. This year, along with our catered meal, we will be having entertainment. Details and signup will be at the next meeting.

Thanks to Bob, KC0CJC, for the donation of magazines. I know the club members that picked them up at the last club meeting will enjoy them.

You may have noticed that the last newsletter didn't get posted to the club web site. John, WB8RCR has been out of town a lot lately. This is a concern to me that you're not getting information in a timely manner and it's something I will be working on with John and Keith, KB8SOE. I hope we can make things better in the future.

I think I've hit the high points for this month. If I've missed something, I'll catch it next time. I've reached the point in our move that I'm actually looking in some of the boxes that ended up on the storage shelves in the basement. Its not that I don't believe the labels taped on the outside of box but I want to see what else got stuffed into the box at the last minute. One of the treasures I discovered was a vast collection of computer software that I had collected years ago. Before Windows and even before DOS the operating system of choice for personal computers was CP/M. CP/M never started out to be an operating system as such. In the early days of home computers, we needed to find ways of storing our programs and data. Some bright fellows decided to wire in an IBM disk drive to their computer. Of course, the immediate question was "will it work?" They wrote some simple programs to exercise the disk. The commands did simple things like start the motor, move the disk heads in and out, write data and read the data back in. Back then everyone shared everything so once they published what they had done everyone was trying the same thing and of course, they were using the same simple programs to test things out and adding to those programs. Voila, the birth of an operating system called Control Program for Microsystems or CP/M. In fact, our modern operating systems still use the same commands found in CP/M. My treasure trove exists on the media of the

time, 8-inch IBM floppy disks. These disks weren't known to be the most reliable storage even in their time so I'm in the process of moving all of the data I can recover to a media that has a longer shelf life. I want to preserve this part of computer history. It would be nice if the programmers of today would spend some time looking at the elegant programming

solutions that were developed when computer resources and computer speeds were very limited. I think they could learn a thing or two. As you spend time in this great hobby of amateur radio don't be afraid to ask, "Will it work?" you might be surprised at the answer.

Best regards, Lee – KC8ITI

## Amateur Radio is a Contact Sport!

### MARC Minutes Linda Hodges, KC8MUD

The meeting was called to order by Lee KC8ITI at 7:40 P.M. with 26 in attendance. A sign-in sheet was passed around. Approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Treasurer's report- John W8QN- Thank-you to all who renewed their memberships.

EC/RO Report- John W8QN- Bob W8LSS told about the SET he attended in Lansing. More packet work and traffic passing exercises to be done later on.

Lee's New Number- Lee KC8ITI- Lee's new phone number is 374-0032.

Club Picnic update-Linda KC8MUD- A nice time even though the weather wasn't as nice as it could have been.

Classes-Lee KC8ITI- Lee and Bob W8LSS have four students at the Salvation Army building on Monday and Wednesday night.

Santa Parade- Dorie N8WTQ- We can have two vehicles on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Line up at 8:00 A.M. — Start of parade is at 9:00 A.M. The \$25.00 fee goes to the Toys for Tots program. Donations for wrapped candy would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Party-Dorie N8WTQ- The party is on the first Friday in December which is December 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. Social time is at 5:30 and we'll eat at 6:00 P.M. at the Lee Township hall. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Don't forget your white elephant gift.

Plaques- Keith KB8SOE- ARRL has a sweepstakes contest each year and needs

sponsors for the plaques that can be won. For \$75.00 our club can get its name on a sponsored plaque. One of these Plaques already is sponsored by Keith KB8SOE and Kevin KB8QWQ in memory of Raleigh W8QOI. This discussion was tabled at this meeting so the information can get out in the newsletter.

Radio Purchase-Jack NX8A-Jack passed out fliers explaining what radio is available for SAR work for those who are interested. If you are interested in this equipment please contact Jack.

Club Auction-Lee KC8ITI- Bid sheets are by each item. Bids will be looked at and items awarded at the end of the next meeting. Also there is a stack of free magazines at the front of the room.

Mike KB4EIZ- Mike was on after the NET and sounded good.

Show and Tell-Denny W8BPT- Denny passed around some lightning damaged equipment from his daughter's house. Discussion followed about how to get coax into the house. Also said if you wish to drive the SATERN vehicles there are forms to fill out. See Denny.

Party- Dorie N8WTQ- There is a Halloween Party at Bill and Dorie's on October the 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. Dorie says "Bring the kids and have fun."

Thank-You- Ryan KD8RCR- Thank you to Bob W8LSS for help with his antenna. Also it was noted that Ryan's place may be an option for our Field Day Event.

NET CONTROL:

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> Jack N8XA

### Upcoming Events

Nov 20	Midland Santa Parade
Dec 3	MARC Christmas Party

### Michigan Hamfests

Oct 24	Sterling Heights
Dec 5	Harrison Twp
Jan 16, 2011	Hazel Park
Feb 13, 2011*	Cherryland
Feb 20, 2011	Livonia
Mar 19, 2011*	Marshall
Apr 2, 2011	Lowell
May 7, 2011*	Cadillac
Jun 18, 2011	Midland
Jun 19, 2011*	Monroe

\* denotes tentative date based on 2010 event

### Area Nets

SVARA; Mn, 147.24 MHz, 2100 ET  
Gladwin; Tu, 147.18 MHz, 2000 ET  
BAARC; Tu, 145.31 MHz, 2100 ET  
Canadian Lks, Wed, 146.8, 2100 ET  
Edmore, Th, 146.8, 2000 ET  
MARC; Th, 147.00 MHz, 2100 ET  
District 3 ARPSC; Su, 145.31 MHz, 1800 ET  
W Mi Trffc Net; MWF, 145.15 MHz, 0900 ET  
TMMTN; Mon-Sat, 147.30 MHz, 2130 ET  
MACS; Mon-Sat, 3953 kHz 1100 ET  
MIARPSC; Su, 3932 kHz, 17:00 ET  
UPN; Sun-Sat, 3920 KHz, 17:00 ET  
MITN; Sun-Sat, 3952 kHz, 1800 ET  
QMN; Sun-Fri, 3563 kHz, 1830 & 2200 ET  
WSSBN, 3932 kHz, 1900 ET  
UP-ARES; Fr, 3932 kHz, 1930 ET  
GLETN; Sun-Sat, 3932 kHz, 2030 ET  
SEMTN; Sun-Sat, 145.33, 2215 ET

### MARC MERCHANDISE

T-Shirt	S- XL	\$10
	2X - 3X	\$12
Long-Sleeve Tee	S- XL	\$12
	2X - 3X	\$15
Crew Sweatshirt	S- XL	\$18
	2X - 3X	\$20
Hoodie	S- XL	\$24
	2X - 3X	\$26
Zipper Hoodie	S- 3X	\$30
Winter Coat	S- XL	\$42
	2X - 3X	\$45
Spring Jacket	S- XL	\$32
	2X - 3X	\$35
Hat		\$10

All garments are royal blue with white print and embroidered name and number. Extended sizes available.

Please call Bill Lee at B&C Sportswear with questions @ (989) 839-4537.

## Explore the World with Amateur Radio!



Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> Chris KB8UIH

Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> John W8QN

Lee's Presentation- Quick demo of Smith Chart software

Chris brought yummy Milk and Cookies.....MMMMM

An Adjournment motion was made by Lee KC8ITI and seconded by Cindy KB8JQY.

The meeting ended at 8: 25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda KC8MUD  
MARC Secretary

## ***My Two Cents***

***Pat Mullet, KC8RTW***

Progress may be slow on my antenna project, but it is being made. I procured a sturdy metal plate to be used as a backplane for the surge suppressors that will be mounted in my cable entry box, and John, W8QN, has kindly consented to cut it down to size. A little bit of drilling on my part, and the suppressors should be installed and the box ready to be mounted.

The antenna rope and coax has been ordered and should turn up next week, though I still have to determine the best

way to route it from one end of the house to the other—I think I'm going to have to see if I can get someone with more experience in hanging wire over to do a site survey, rather than trying to do a lash-up that will come down after the first good storm, as often was the case with the random wire I strung up while I was in Freeland.

In the meantime, I need to start testing out both my sound card interface, which I plan on using on the HF bands, and my TNC/2 meter combination which

I plan on using for packet/APRS. I haven't been hearing any packet/APRS activity on my setup, but I've a couple things to play with before I give up on it. I do want to have the HF digital software up and running this winter so I can play around with PSK-31 as well as take a look at slow scan and other things.

Well, that's about all I have for this go-round, hope to see you on the air soon.

73, Pat, KC8RTW

## ***ARES®/RACES***

***John Wolters, W8QN***

The 2010 ARRL SET occurred on Saturday Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Active members in Midland County included W8QN, KB8VSS, KB8RCR, WD8BPT, and KC8RTW. One piece of traffic was re-

ceived, one forwarded, and one returned. Simplex VHF contacts were made with Saginaw, Lapeer, Gladwin, and Tuscola counties. Genesee was heard but not well enough to make contact.

A discussion of the exercise was had at the Oct. ARES®/RACES meeting.

In the November meeting we will go over the projects in the last year and start discussions for projects in 2011.

## ***Santa Parade & MARC Christmas Party***

The Santa Parade will be Nov 20<sup>th</sup>. Line up starts at 8 am. All entries need to be in place at 9am at the Midland High School parking lot. The parade starts at 10 am.  
The MARC Christmas Party will be

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Lee Township Hall same as last year. Arrive at 5:30 pm, eat at 6pm. Don't forget to bring a white elephant gift. The cost of the meal will be about the same as last year. We need to know who is coming so we can have a

firm number for the caterer.

If you want to participate contact AB8JF Bill at [wm\\_here4u@yahoo.com](mailto:wm_here4u@yahoo.com) or 989-835-5562.

Bill & Dorie

## ***Surplus Equipment Auction***

From time to time equipment is donated to the Midland Amateur Radio Club. A determination is made whether this equipment has value to the club in general and if it does then it is placed in club inventory to be used as needed. If donated equipment is deemed as surplus to the club's needs then it is sold, usually at the Midland Swap. The following equipment has been deemed surplus:

MFJ-4602 Window Antenna Feedthru Panel – high bid \$20

MFJ-986 Antenna Tuner – high bid \$100

Rig Blaster – high bid \$10

NYE Speed-X Key with Navy Knob – high bid \$25

NYE Straight key (in box) - high bid \$20

NYE Straight key (in plastic bag) – no bid

Motorola Speaker – high bid \$5

Miscellaneous Box of antenna parts – high bid \$25

Miscellaneous Box of cables – no bid

Bids will be taken on this equipment through the end of the November club meeting at which time awards will be made. Bid sheets will be available at

the September, October and November meetings. We will try to make this equipment available for inspection at each of these meetings. Bids can be placed at the club meetings or by calling Lee, KC8ITI or Bill, AB8JF. The club reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids. The club also reserves the right to withdraw any of the items from the auction. Before the close of the auction, the club may also add more equipment for bid.

## **Keep Up with Public Service Via Social Networks**

For some time now, MI\_ARPSC (the Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service Corps' Yahoo Group) has been sending occasional updates via Twitter, a popular microblogging application. Microblogging allows you to receive and send short messages via the web, a smartphone, or even text messaging. Because they may be sent via SMS, "tweets" (on Twitter) or "dents" (on identi.ca) are limited to 140 characters.

A "competitor" of Twitter is identi.ca, which is completely free and open source. Michigan ARPSC is now sending its updates to identi.ca, and they are fed through to Twitter. The identi.ca ID for Michigan ARPSC is miarpssc.

ARPSC does not send a lot of traffic. On average, it sends an update every two or three days, although if there is a major incident it may be several times during a day. Updates include notification of significant incidents, reminders of statewide events, and even the occasional hamfest or contest reminder.

To sign up for identi.ca, or even just have a look around, simply go to <http://identi.ca>. Twitter is <http://twitter.com>

73 de WB8RCR



Are you a search-and-pounce specialist? Roger K8RI's cat Stealth sure is - he's looking for the mouse-iplier, RØDENT, hiding out at the top end of the band! CQ! (Thanks, Roger K8RI) (courtesy ARRL Contest Update, Oct 13, 2010)

## **DX News: PJ Pandemonium -- Opening October 10 on an HF Band Near You**

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX

(ARRL Letter, Oct 7, 2010) — Not since after World War II -- with new European entities -- and the break-up of the French colonies in Africa in the early 1960s, have so many new possible DXCC entities come into existence all at once.

No, it's not a colorized re-release of a 1960s B-grade beach movie. On

Sunday, October 10, five islands in the Caribbean are all changing their governmental status at the same time: Saba, St Eustatius, Bonaire, St Maarten and Curacao. Known collectively as the Netherlands Antilles, these islands have up to now been an autonomous part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Some will remain within the Netherlands as "special municipalities" and some will become independent nations within the

Kingdom of the Netherlands, just as the island nation of Aruba did back in 1986. What this means for the HF bands is a lot of interference as the new DXCC entities are born: Two DXCC entities (the island pair of Bonaire & Curacao and the three-island group of St Maarten, Saba and St Eustatius) will be deleted from the DXCC list of active entities and be replaced by up to five new entities!

## **DXCC News: Four New Entities Placed on DXCC List**

(ARRL Letter, Oct 14, 2010) — With the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles on October 10, two now-deleted DXCC entities are now four new DXCC entities, effective October 10, 2010. The island pair of Bonaire and Curaçao (PJ2 and PJ4, the Leeward Islands) and the three-island group of Sint Maarten, Saba and St Eustatius (PJ5, PJ6 and PJ7, the Windward Islands) have been deleted from the DXCC list of active entities and replaced with four new entities. Not since the aftermath of World War II -- with so many new European entities --

and the break-up of the French colonies in Africa in the early 1960s -- have so many new DXCC entities come into existence all at once.

On October 10, the US Department of State recognized the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles, placing the new entities on its Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty List, saying that "Curaçao and Sint Maarten (the Dutch two-fifths of the island of Saint Martin) became autonomous territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Bonaire, Saba, and St Eustatius now fall under the

direct administration of the Netherlands."

According to the DXCC rules, entities may be added or removed from the DXCC List as a result of political or geographic change. These new entities qualified to be listed on the DXCC List under Section 2, Rule 1(b) of the DXCC rules: "The entity contains a permanent population, is administered by a local government and is located at least 800 km from its parent. To satisfy the 'permanent population' and 'administered by a local government' criteria of this sub-section, an Entity must be listed on either (a) the

US Department of State's list of 'Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty' as having a local 'Administrative Center,' or (b) the United Nations list of 'Non-Self-Governing Territories.'"

With so many DXCC entities all coming into being at the same time, many amateurs made their way to Curaçao (PJ2T, PJ2/OH1VR, PJ2/PB2T, PJ2A and PJ2MI), Sint Maarten (PJ7E, PJ7MF),

Bonaire (PJ4B, PJ4D, PJ4I, PJ4LS and PJ4W), Saba (PJ6A) and St Eustatius (PJ5/AA4NC, PJ5/AH6HY and PJ5/K1XM) to put these new ones on the air. Beginning at 0400 UTC on October 10, the airwaves were filled with those looking to snag these new entities; just days after the entities became "live," stations on the islands had made more than 15,000 QSOs on SSB and CW.

Per the ARRL DXCC Desk, no confirmations for these new entities will be accepted until after January 1, 2011; other administrative changes will be announced as they are finalized. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site, in upcoming editions of The ARRL Letter and in the December 2010 issue of QST.

## **Technical Topics and Information**

(ARRL Contest Update, Sept 29, 2010) — Sporadic E (Es) propagation was a major feature of the summer VHF contests this year. With more hams active on 6 meters, we are learning more and more about Es propagation patterns. Dean N6BV recommends this paper (<http://www.amfmdx.net/propagation/Es.html>) on the subject as good reading. Note that sporadic E on 6 meters often means 10 meters is open, as well - hint, hint!

And with each passing issue, more prognostication on the upcoming (hopefully) solar cycle 24. This article (<http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2010/09/say-goodbye-to-sunspots.html>) is in the Depressing-Above-15-MHz column. I know the Top Band operators are secretly rejoicing over all of this, though! (Thanks, Roger W7VV)

Doug K1DG reports and others con-

firm that running antenna wire over small-diameter pulleys (1" or so) causes even stranded wires to break and may accelerate corrosion (which leads to breaks). He reports higher reliability using large-diameter (3-4") plastic pulley wheels and homemade brackets.

Steve KD1JV has some advice for parts/radios/junk hoarders not unlike himself, "Don't move! It is truly amazing at how much "stuff" we can accumulate and how difficult it is to part with much of it if you do have to move." I don't know any such individuals in ham radio, do you?

A single Google Earth file presents the entirety of the FCC broadcast license database ([http://www.fccinfo.com/fccinfo\\_google\\_earth.php](http://www.fccinfo.com/fccinfo_google_earth.php)) - an interesting view of towers you may encounter. (Thanks, Daniel K7DGL)

The current and previous issues of

QEX feature a two-part tutorial for the QuickSmith ([www.nathaniyer.com](http://www.nathaniyer.com)) software that uses the Smith Chart to work out transmission line problems. (Thanks, Nick WA5BDU)

In a multi-rivet tubing joint, place the heads of all three rivets in the holes before beginning to pop the rivets. If popping a rivet causes the tubing to shift, getting the final rivets seated properly could be difficult.

Technical Web Site of the Week - Learn the technical details of digital video in Xiph's tutorial series, "Digital Video Primer For Geeks" (<http://xiph.org/video/index.shtml.en>). The series begins with a basic explanation of digital audio and video fundamentals. With so much digital technology involved in contesting these days, particularly for remote station operation, this is pretty useful stuff.

## **More Technical Topics and Information**

(ARRL Contest Update, Oct 13, 2010) — As VHF+ operators know, sporadic E propagation (Es) has a distinctly cyclic characteristic. Thanks to the PSK31 PropNET community, Art KA5DWI has documented cyclical-Es phenomena in a study ([http://www.propnet.org/docs/art/KA5DWI\\_2010\\_SummaryA.pdf](http://www.propnet.org/docs/art/KA5DWI_2010_SummaryA.pdf)) published on the PropNET Web site. This is a great example of "advancing the radio art". (Thanks, Ev W2EV)

I just finished a very interesting book titled, "The Battery - How Portable

Power Sparked a Technological Revolution" by Henry Schlesinger (<http://www.harpercollins.com/books/The-Battery-Henry-Schlesinger/?isbn=9780061442933>). If you've ever wondered about the origins and evolution of our cellular companions, "The Battery" will fill you in. The book starts at the beginning - static electricity - and works its way to the present day. I guarantee some surprising revelations during the journey. The book doesn't attempt to be a detailed analysis of battery technology, succeeding at offering an engaging treatment of the subject

that will spur additional investigation. Amateur radio makes an appearance towards the later chapters, too - no fair skipping ahead! The book is good as a fast-charge day's read or as a chapter-at-bedtime trickle-charge. Highly recommended.

Three new state-of-the-art 7-element Yagi antenna designs (<http://g4cqm.www.idnet.com/2M%20YAGI>) have been published by Derek G4CQM. These were optimized for satellite operation, but would no doubt perform well in terrestrial applications.

# ***It's Not Your Grandfather's Amateur Radio!***



The interesting clamp fixtures at the end of the article might also be of interest in other antenna-building applications. (Thanks, AMSAT Bulletin ANS-283.10)

We all know the solar wind has a lot to do with ionospheric conditions - for example, a southward tack of the solar wind's Bz component bodes ill for HF propagation. Even though tenuous, the breeze flowing past the Earth still carries a lot of energy. How about putting a giant sail ([http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39441929/ns/technology\\_and\\_science-discoverycom/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39441929/ns/technology_and_science-discoverycom/)) in space to tap some of it? And we could shunt-feed the tether, too!

More low-cost or free drawing programs surfaced this week. The first is the Open Source inkscape (<http://inkscape.org/>) - the Web site hosts tutorials and forums. Google Documents includes the Drawing program (<http://google-docs.blogspot.com/2010/04/introducing-google-docs-drawings.html>) and all of your files are stored on the Google servers - a good thing if you travel and want to access those drawings from any computer. GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) (<http://www.gimp.org/>) is highly recommended, as well. (Thanks, Chris KG6OMK and Barry KF5GC)

If you're looking at your tiny yard as

contest season gets underway and sighing in dismay, take a look at these HF antennas (<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/LimitedSpaceAntennas.pdf>) for limited space by Jim K9YC. The accompanying file of presentation slides (<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/LimitedSpaceAntennas-PPT.pdf>) sheds additional light on the subject. Being a domestic contest, low antennas are effective and if you take steps to make them efficient, you'll be surprised at the results.

## Swap 'n' Shop

**For Sale:** Excess toroid cores, Fair-Rite 2.4" OD type #31 mix @ \$5.90 each. Ideal for baluns 160 through 6 meters. You can build a good current balun for about the price of a cheap commercial one and get far better isolation. I purchased a 100 of the things

and will only use about half.

Also, two MFJ 989C Versatuners-full legal limit--\$175 each. They are going for a bit over \$200 each on eBay. Roger (K8RI)

**Small Tower Needed:** A co-worker

of mine is looking for a light duty tower 20' to 30' high to support a Speed Net dish. Please let me know if you have such a thing you are willing to part with. Kevin Barnum KB8QWQ home 687-6987 or kb8qwq@tds.net

## MARC Vital Statistics

### Memberships Expiring in October 2010

KB4EIZ

KD8HIC

### Memberships Expiring in November 2010

KC8TQS

WD8BPT

### Memberships Expiring in December 2010

KB8QWQ  
KB8SOE

KB8UIH  
KD8MQZ

KD8MRB  
KD8MRC

N8ERF

Current Active Club Membership 71

### Birthdays Celebrated in October/November 2010

W8WOJ 10/3  
KD8JQX 10/5  
N8LTR 10/10

N8WTQ 10/10  
KC8TQU 10/19  
KB8PGW 10/25

KC0CJC 10/31  
K6VWE11/13  
KB8UIH 11/27

### Anniversaries Celebrated in October/November 2010

WB8RCR and Eileen 10/12  
KB8SOE and Darci 10/19  
KB8LQM and KC8IHB 10/23

Information is from data received 9/29/2010

Any corrections or questions contact John, W8QN

# Amateur Radio. . . We Do That!



Pat Mullet  
Newsletter Editor  
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Shepherd, MI 48883

If you desire to join the Midland Amateur Radio Club, the dues are \$20 per year for an individual membership. A family membership is available for an additional \$5 per year which covers all of the individual's family members. Family members must reside at the same address as the primary member to be eligible for the family member rate. The membership dues help to cover the operating expenses of the Club, and its radio systems. Membership includes Autopatch privileges on the W8KEA repeater (147.000+), voting privileges at MARC meetings, and a monthly newsletter. Please supply the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthday: (mm/dd) \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary: (mm/dd) \_\_\_\_\_  
Desired newsletter format: Paper copy via USPS \_\_\_\_\_ or via e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an ARRL Member? Y/N      Do you want an ARES Application? Y/N

We request this information so we can communicate with you regarding MARC business, and periodically send you newsletters and congratulatory birthday & anniversary greetings. We do not sell this information nor will we knowingly publicize private information without your permission. Information that is publicly available may be distributed to Club members for various purposes, including membership lists, without prior notification.

You may give this completed form to the MARC treasurer, or you may mail it to:

**MARC, PO Box 1049, Midland, MI 48641-1049**