



W8KEA



# MARC

MIDLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
PO BOX 1049, MIDLAND, MICHIGAN 48641  
[www.w8kea.org](http://www.w8kea.org)

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	Jeff Mowery N8KS	(989) 615-3715
	Pat Mullet KC8RTW	(989) 828-6657

#### 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 — **No December Meeting**

Next CLUB MEETING — Thursday December 2, 2010

Salvation Army Building, 330 Waldo 7:30 PM

Talk-in on 147.000 MHz +

**December 2010**

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

***Lee Hodges, KC8ITI***

I've been under the weather the last couple of days as those of you may have noticed at the last club meeting. It's a little rough teaching classes and presiding over a club meeting when the vocal chords have gone south. I guess the bug has been going around but I just didn't want it to start so early. Of course, I blamed it all on my brother-in-law's wife. We all attended my wife's nephew's wedding the end of last month. The first thing she told us is that she had had a sore throat the previous week but that she had told her doctor that she needed medication because she wasn't going to miss the wedding. I haven't polled the rest of in-laws yet to get an infection count. One of the advantages of our hobby is that germs can't spread over the radio waves.

Our Technician class is coming to a close. We've had two students stick with us through all of our sessions. We look forward to these individuals passing their test and joining our ranks. Bob, W8LSS and I have been keeping notes on how we can improve our course material when we present this class next time. We will be starting the prep work on offering a General license class

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



some time after the first of the year. I'm seriously considering teaching the next classes at my house. I have an area in my basement that can be set up as a class area. The advantages are that I don't have set up and take down the classroom equipment every time and all of the demo materials are within easy reach. It will also be nice to

#### **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)

have a workbench and working stations ready to go. There are some minuses to teaching at home but I think the pluses outweigh those minuses.

Our VE team has scheduled a VE testing session for Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at the Salvation Army Building, 330 Waldo Ave., Midland, Michigan. This will be an evening session with registration to start at 6:30 PM with testing to follow at 7 PM. As with all testing sessions, bring two pieces of identification (one with a picture ID). If you are upgrading, bring your current license plus a copy of your license and any outstanding CSCEs plus copies of those too. The testing fee is \$15 and can be cash or a check made out to ARRL/VEC.

Thanks to all of you that participated in the club equipment auction at the conclusion of the last club meeting. This was equipment that was donated to the club that we deemed surplus to our needs. I hope the successful bidders were able to put their purchases to good use. John, W8QN has informed me that we raised \$260 for the club treasury. Recently we have had quite a bit of equipment donated to the club including some fairly modern transceivers. We will probably be taking a look at some of our older club inventory with the idea of offering it up for auction too.

At the last club meeting, John, KD8HID, had list of ham equipment from friends he is helping them sell. The list contained the following pieces:

Gonset GSB-201  
Ten Tec 262G  
Yaesu FT-7B  
KDK FM-2016  
Kenwood R599/T599 Twins  
Dentron Super Tuner Plus  
Heathkit HM-102  
Hallicrafter FPM-300

If you have an interest in any of this gear, contact John.

Our club will be participating in the Midland Santa Parade on November 20<sup>th</sup>. If you get this newsletter before the 20<sup>th</sup> and would like to help pass out candy along the route then give Dorie, N8WTQ a call. Word has it we will be using the Salvation Army's communication van this year with our club banners on it as our

entry in the parade.

Our club Christmas Party is at Lee Township Hall on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Social time will start a 5:30 PM with our catered meal to follow at 6 PM. The cost is still \$10 per person. If you are interested in attending this year's Christmas party get your reservations into Dorie, N8WTQ as soon as possible. By the way, don't forget your treasures for the white elephant gift exchange. The suggestion was made to regift some of the things you may've received in the past. To tell you the truth I've been able to make use of most of the items I've gotten at previous parties. As they say, "one man's junk is another man's treasure."

Dennis, N8ERF and I are involved in a club project to preserve some of our club's history. We are in the process of collecting and having bound in book form all of the club newsletters we can find. We have a good start but we are missing some months. We are currently looking for any newsletters prior to January 1984. Also we need newsletters from February through March of 1984, May through September of 1984, August & September 1985 and January 1986. If you happen to have any of these newsletters send them along, send us a copy or loan us the newsletter so we can make a copy and get it back to you. Along with making a book of our history, we are also scanning the newsletters to make an electronic copy of them.

I'll wrap it up for this month. I did manage to get another wire antenna into the air. I found that I didn't have a good tuner match on some bands with the first antenna. The new antenna is designed to fill in the holes left by the other antenna. So far, I'm pleased with the results but I'm still testing the second antenna. I'm not sure I'll have time to sling anymore wire yet this fall but you never know. Let's see 1005 divided by 1.8 equals a ... 160 meter loop... hmmm, do I have trees in the right place?

As the holiday season approaches, Linda and I wish you the peace and joy of this time of the year. Enjoy family and friends wherever they may be.

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 7:30 P.M. with 22 in attendance. A sign-in sheet was passed around and introductions were made. A motion by Pat KC8RTW to approve September's minutes was made and seconded by Cindy KD8JQY. Passed. A second motion was made by Cindy KD8JQY to approve October's minutes and seconded by Pat KC8RTW. Passed.

• Treasurer's Report- John W8QN-A short discussion about Auto patch followed.

• EC/RO Report- John W8QN- Trainings and exercises coming up on February 12<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, August 6<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact John to see how to help or learn more about the ARES® and RACES groups.

• Classes-Lee KC8ITI- Two eager students are coming and doing very well in the class. The VE exam will take place at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at the Salvation Army Building.

• Press Releases-Pat KC8RTW- Please let Pat know where and when you have heard any press releases about Amateur Radio.

• Santa Parade- Dorie N8WTQ- Line up starts at 8:00 A.M. and the parade starts at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. The \$25.00 fee goes to the *Toys For Tots* program. Please let Dorie know if you would like to help pass out candy.

• Christmas Party-Dorie N8WTQ- Mark your Calendars for December 3<sup>rd</sup> for our Club Christmas party at the Lee Township Hall. Social time starts at 5:30 P.M. and we'll eat around 6:00. Special entertainment is coming this year and as always don't forget your white elephant gift. The cost is \$10.00 per person.

• Hamfest - Lee KC8ITI-L'anse Amateur Radio Club 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Swap & Shop On Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 2010. L'anse Creuse High School 8am- noon

• Old Newsletters Lee KC8ITI- Let Lee know if you have any old newsletters as they are copying and binding as many as they can find for anybody who would be interested in reading them.

• SATERN status- Possibility of getting the Eastern District SATERN headquarters moved to Midland. Discussion followed.

• Storm Frequency-Lee KC8ITI- Discussion about which frequencies to keep free for emergency use because of the Hurricane Tomas.

• Equipment list- John KD8HID brought a list of equipment for sale from his friend.

• Time Change-Lee KC8ITI- Time change Reminder.

• NET CONTROL-

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> John W8QN

Nov 18<sup>th</sup> Lee KC8ITI

Nov 25<sup>th</sup> Ryan KB8RCR

• Logo-Ryan KB8RCR -Ryan asked for permission to use club logo at another clothes outlet. Granted.

• Presentation- Chris KB8UIH- Chris gave a slide show presentation about what he learned at weather service training at an Emergency coordinator's meeting that he attended on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank-you Chris.

• Query-Walt WB8WNF - Does anybody have a field strength meter for testing that he can borrow?

• The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda KC8MUD

MARC Secretary

### Upcoming Events

Nov 20	Midland Santa Parade
Dec 3	MARC Christmas Party
Jan 1	Straight Key Night

### Michigan Hamfests

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.

## My Two Cents

Pat Mullet, KC8RTW

Well, despite a minor setback, things are looking up on my planned addition to my little antenna farm. If you'll remember, last month I mentioned that I was ordering the antenna rope and coax to hang my G5RV to enable me to do some HFin' during those cold winter days and nights. Since the run from my "shack" to the antenna will be upwards of 60 feet, I wanted

to get a low loss coax, and I found a good deal on a 9913 equivalent. Now, I've heard horror stories about the original Belden 9913—while it has good loss figures, it achieved this by supporting the center conductor inside a hollow poly tube supported by a continuous spiral of material, yielding an air insulator rather than the more familiar solid poly or foam



dielectric. The problem is, when used outside with UHF style connectors, moisture gets into the cable, causing the SWR to rise precipitously. I've heard of some instances when Hams have pulled the 9913 from the back of their rigs, only to have water literally stream out onto their desks. I've heard that Belden has since modified their 9913 coax to prevent this, so when I read that my selected purchase featured a "semi-solid" poly dielectric, I figured, "why not?" So, the order is sent, the package arrives

and I go to strip back the end to put on a pl-259, and guess what?

Yup, it's original 9913 equivalent, right down to the air dielectric. So, I've got a big roll of cable I can use for indoor use.

Eager to keep from making any more mistakes I can't easily recover from, I decide to ask for some advice, and Lee, KC8ITI, consents to come do a site survey. So, last Friday, we walked around the house, checked out the lay of the land and discussed my plans. It all

looks doable, so once I get connectors on the new coax and can arrange a date when the weather isn't too bad—contrary to popular opinion that antennas work better when erected in the worst weather, I'm not gonna put this one up when it's cold and rainy—I should be able to get a crew together to get my new skyhook in the air. With any luck, I should be on the HF bands before the next meeting.

73, Pat, KC8RTW

## ***ARES®/RACES***

Midland EC/RO John, W8QN reports that all is quite on the EmComm

front in the Midland area this month, but wishes to remind everyone that there *will*

*not* be a ARES® meeting in December.

## ***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

## ***Wanted - MARC Newsletters***

Looking for any newsletters prior to January 1984 as well as the following:

February 1984

March 1984

May 1984

June 1984

July 1984

August 1984

September 1984

August 1985

September 1985

January 1986

If you happen to have any of these newsletters contact Dennis - N8ERF or Lee - KC8ITI

## ***FCC Issues Report and Order on Vanity and Club Station Call Signs***

(ARRL Letter — November 11, 2010) In November 2009, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) -- WT Docket No. 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system. The NPRM also sought to revise certain rules applicable to club stations. The ARRL submitted its comments to the FCC on March 26. On Monday, November 8, 2010, the FCC issued a Report and Order with its de-

cisions. These new rules will take effect 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

In the Report and Order, the FCC amended and clarified its rules with respect to Amateur Service vanity call signs "in order to promote processes that are more equitable and administratively efficient." The FCC has amended its vanity call sign rules to clarify the date on which the call sign associated with a license that is canceled due to the licensee's death becomes available for

reassignment. The R&O also clarifies the exceptions to the general rule that a call sign is unavailable to the vanity call sign system for two years after the license terminates. As for club stations, the FCC has placed limits on who can file applications on behalf of a club, how many vanity call signs a club can hold and how many clubs can have the same license trustee. Read more at <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-issues-em-report-and-order-em-on-vanity-and-club-station-call-signs>.

***Explore the World with Amateur Radio!***

## Two New ARRL Kits Coming Soon

(ARRL Letter—Oct 28, 2010) Two new ARRL kits are in the final throes of production. The first is a Morse code oscillator, produced for ARRL by MFJ Enterprises. The project is a good "beginners" electronics kit. We expect the kit will be popular with members, particularly newcomers, and with clubs, instructors and teachers seeking a classroom kit-building experience. A supplementary resource guide for students and educators will be made available by the ARRL Education and Technology Pro-

gram. The guide helps cover the fundamentals of the working circuit and its components.

A second kit is a PIC programming lab and project, produced for ARRL by Cana Kit (Canada). This more substantial kit is intended to be used with ARRL's *PIC Programming for Beginners* book (revised first edition). The kit includes all the necessary components, parts and boards, and follows the book's step-by-step exercises and tutorial. The kit also includes all the necessary parts

to build a microprocessor-controlled CW keyer, which is the book's culminating project.

"We're excited about these new projects, which help emphasize kit construction, basic electronics, and the extraordinary potential of microcontrollers," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "There's no better way to advance the radio art than by introducing more hams to project building and homebrewing."

## W1AW Announces Winter Operating Schedule

With the switch from Daylight Saving Time to Standard Time, W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, has

updated the W1AW operating schedule to reflect the change. The standard times have not changed, but the UTC times

have. Read more at <http://www.arrl.org/news/w1aw-announces-winter-operating-schedule>>

## Manley Palmer, WA8FCP SK

*(The following obituary appeared in The Morning Sun on Oct 30th, 2010. Manley was a member of the Gratiot County ARA—Ed)*

**Manley C. Palmer**  
**March 20, 1929 - Oct. 29, 2010**

Age 81, of Alma, passed away Friday, October 29, 2010 at Masonic Pathways in Alma.

Funeral services will be held Monday, November 1, 2010 at 11am at the First Church of God with Pastor Steve Wimmer officiating. Interment will be in Ferris Center Cemetery. Visitation will be held Sunday from 2-4 & 6-8pm at Lux-Moody-Wolfel Funeral Home, Alma. Memorial contributions

may be made to the First Church of God.

Manley was born March 20, 1929 in Vestaburg the son of Wesley and Bernice (Baker) Palmer. He grew up in Vestaburg and graduated from Houghton Lake High School. He then enlisted in the Air Force being stationed in Okinawa and England. He attained the rank of staff sergeant and worked on B-29 engines. After his honorable discharge he went to work for Buick in Flint for several years and met his wife at a roller skating rink in Flint that he frequented. He was married to Virginia Horton on February 28, 1959 in Flint and together they raised three children. They moved to Houghton Lake and ran the local roller skating rink and also managed his parents resort, Palmer Shores. In 1963 they moved to Alma and

he worked for many years with Lobdell Emery Mfg. Co. where he retired. Manley was a member of the First Church of God and was an avid ham radio operator with a call sign of WA8FCP

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Virginia, a son, Edward (Penny) Palmer of Vestaburg and daughter, Carolyn Palmer of Jeffersonville, Indiana. One grandson Thomas Edward and a half sister, Charlotte Runnels of Florida. Also an aunt Lucille Moore of Mt. Pleasant.

Manley was preceded in death by his parents and a son, David Palmer.

This is WA8FCP, 73's to you all, signing off.

## Ray (Abe) Abraczinskas, W8HVG, SK

*The following was forwarded to me from the Michigan PRB-1 Committee, having originated from the Kent County ARES /RACES / SAR Groups list. I served with Abe on the PRB-1 Committee, and though I did not know him well, found him to be a fine man and a very enthusiastic Ham. —Pat Mullet, KC8RTW*

All:

I am sad to announce one of our local Amateur Radio legend's passed away this week.

For those who did not know who Abe was, he was the driving force behind the IRA (W8HVG) linked system repeater. Abe was also one of the local ham's would stand up for Ama-

teur radio when it came to antenna ordinances. He was one of the Ham's who always had a kind word and always took time to talk to you on the radio or in person when you saw him. I always enjoyed talking with Abe. Please take a minute to share a memory with his family at [www.mkdfuneralhome.com](http://www.mkdfuneralhome.com) or stop in and see them. Abe will be greatly

missed in the Amateur Radio Community.

This Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 PM they will hold a Silent Key Ceremony during the Traffic net on the Linked system machine. Go to [www.w8hvg.org](http://www.w8hvg.org) for frequency information.

Some more about Abe from the IRA Web site: <http://www.w8hvg.org/w8hvg%20bio.htm>

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BRACZINSKAS - Raymond James Abraczinskas, age 74, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, November 9, 2010. After graduating from Catawissa High School in 1954, he served in the Marines and specialized in avionics and communications while stationed in Japan. He graduated from Tri-State College in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. Ray worked as a laser system project engineer and navigation engineer for Lear Siegler Inc. (later Smiths Industries) before

switching to marketing research and development programs. He was instrumental in casting LSI's unique product, the Voice Controlled Interactive Device, which was designed to assist pilots with controls in the cockpit using voice commands. Ray, known as "Abe" to thousands of Ham Radio operators around the globe, was a dedicated amateur radio operator for 56 years. He was a genealogy buff, and enjoyed annual fishing trips to Quebec. He authored "Stories from my Pennsylvania" (Volumes 1 & 2), a collection of stories based on his childhood growing up in the Susquehanna Valley, PA. He will be greatly missed by his wife of 47 years, Katherine Abraczinskas; children, Laura Abraczinskas, Diane Abraczinskas (Raymond Chung), Carol Abraczinskas, David Abraczinskas; grandchildren, Nicole and Camille Chung; sister, Regina Filipowicz, brothers, Robert (Patricia) Abraczinskas, Dennis (Patricia) Abraczinskas; brother-

in-law, Tom (Evelyn) Oleksy; many nieces and nephews. The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered Saturday at 9:00 a.m. at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, 1213 - 52<sup>nd</sup> Street SE with Rev. Godfrey Onyekwere officiating.

Interment in Woodlawn Cemetery. Relatives and friends may meet the family Friday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at Matthyse-Kuiper-DeGraaf Funeral Chapel (Kentwood), 4646 Kalamazoo, rosary at 8:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the National Brain Tumor Society. Condolences may be sent online at [www.mkdfuneralhome.com](http://www.mkdfuneralhome.com).

Please pass this information out to all Area Amateur Radio Operators.

Thank you,  
Jeffrey Nawrot

Kent County ARES / RACES Coordinator.

## ***Technical Topics and Information***

(ARRL Contest Update—Nov 10, 2010) From the online QST "Way-back machine" of searchable archives, Brad AA1IP contributed this outstanding example of the ham's proclivity for reuse in the July 1965 issue. "Try using the lid from a toothpaste tube as an attractive knob. Select a rubber grommet with an outside diameter that will fit tightly inside the toothpaste lid and at the same time will fit tightly over the control

shaft, so that the combination will not slip. There are many styles, shapes and colors of toothpaste lids available." Brad wonders if that would still work on equipment containing a cavity magnetron. Arnie CO2KK chimed in with the observation that the wheels from broken toy cars and trucks also make great controls!

The daily LF through 6 meter propagation forecasts <<http://www.solar-cycle24.org/>> by Thomas NZ4O are

back after a ten month period of illness. Welcome back, Thomas!

The popular software package of calculators HAMCALC by George VE3ERP cannot drive printers connected to computer USB ports, but there is a solution in the form of DOS2USB <<http://www.dos2usb.com/>>. The trial version can be used for 15 days for free and converted to a permanent license for a small fee.

## ***More Technical Topics and Information***

(ARRL Contest Update —Oct 27, 2010) David K1TTT recommends an alternative to Coax Seal™. "For years I have been using plain old hardware store duct seal. It comes in big 1-lb blocks for about \$2...(and)...comes off much easier even after years of being on a connector. I usually just squish a big handful of it on the joint then add a layer of electrical tape outside to protect it from the sun

and further push it in to the joint." If you're really concerned about removing the seal cleanly, wrap the connector with a single layer of electrical tape before applying the seal.

A rolling hitch <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEV0p-QNPTU>> is a pretty handy knot for lifting masts or pulling on cables or ropes, but might not be a good choice if the rope vibrates be-

cause it might shake loose. Add a half hitch on the bitter end to minimize that problem. For a permanent installation, get a Kellum grip sized for your bundle of cables. They are available from 0.25" to several inches in diameter. (Thanks, Grant KZ1W)

Here's a Web site for determining loading coil inductance <<http://www.see.ed.ac.uk/~jwp/radio/soft->

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

ware/loading.html> for antennas. Placement of the coil is determined by the designer. The Web site also has links to other pages on how to design the coil. (Thanks, Jim KGØKP)

A simple kit for a 3 dB power splitter is available from Clifton Labs <http://www.cliftonlaboratories.com/> as their product Z10050A. They cover a frequency range of 300 kHz to 100 MHz and are a handy way to split low-power signals, such as for adding a receiver. No PC board is required, just supply your

own enclosure and connectors. (Thanks, Craig ACØDS)

Bruce K1FZ has updated his Beverage antenna notes <http://www.qsl.net/k1fz/beveragenotes.html> Web page with additional BOG (Beverage On Ground) antenna information.

Here is an interesting discussion of how to balance battery loading <http://www.smartgauge.co.uk/batt\_con.html> in banks of batteries, contributed by Scott N7SS. With high

loads, this could be an issue, particularly insuring that all batteries supply approximately the same current.

The November issue of *Nuts and Volts* has a nice article on *Oscilloscope Probes and Probing*, active probe project by Robert Reed. You'll also find an excellent oscilloscope tutorial <http://www.nutsvolts.com/index.php?blog/post/oscilloscope\_tutorial> online there, too.

## 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 November 2010

KC8TQS

WD8BPT

### Memberships Expiring in December 2010

KB8QWQ  
KB8SOE

KB8UIH  
KD8MQZ

KD8MRB  
KD8MRC

N8ERF

### Memberships Expiring in January 2011

WB8WNF

KD8HID

Current Active Club Membership 67

### Birthdays Celebrated in November/December 2010

K6VWE11/13  
N8UPP 11/14  
KC8GQK 11/19  
KD8FQF 11/21  
KB8UIH 11/27  
N8NVL 11/28

KC8TQV 12/1  
KC8BOP 12/2  
KD8COB 12/5  
WB8WNF 12/7  
N8ERF 12/10  
N8KS 12/10

KB8TSO 12/13  
AB8JF 12/21  
N8CGP 12/21  
NX8A 12/22  
WD8KEW 12/28  
WD8KTB 12/28

### Anniversaries Celebrated in November/December 2010

N8DHF and KB8QWO 11/17  
KC8KOC and Jennifer 11/23  
KB8UIH and Shelley 12/08  
W8WOJ and

KD8HIF 12/12  
KD8IVZ and KD8IWB 12/16  
AB8JF and N8WTQ 12/18  
KD8GRQ and KD8FQF 12/19

K7GTK and WZ8Z 12/22  
N8ERF and N8NNA 12/23  
KD8JQX and KD8JQY 12/23

Information is from data received 10/27/2010  
Any corrections or questions contact John, W8QN

# Amateur Radio. . . We Do That!





Pat Mullet  
Newsletter Editor  
171 E. Orchard Ave.  
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**