



W8KEA

MARC



MIDLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
PO BOX 1049, MIDLAND, MICHIGAN 48641
www.w8kea.org

President	Lee Hodges KC8ITI	(989) 374-0032
Vice President	Chris Rose KB8UIH	(989) 832-7179
Secretary	Linda Hodges KC8MUD	(989) 374-0032
Treasurer	John Wolters W8QN	(989) 832-9122
W8KEA Station Trustee	Larry Macklin N8CGP	(989) 631-7748
Midland County EC/RO	John Wolters W8QN	(989) 832-9122
Midland County AEC	Chris Rose KB8UIH	(989) 832-7179
Newsletter Editor	Pat Mullet KC8RTW	(989) 828-6657
Newsletter Publisher	Michael Vecchitto KB4EIZ	(989) 832-3932
ARRL Liaison	John Tallman KB8PGW	(989) 859-0364
Web Page Chairman	John McDonough WB8RCR	(989) 631-0178
Club Historian	Stan Rowe K6VWE	(989) 837-7252
Quartermaster	Bill French AB8JF	(989) 835-5562
Public Information Officer	Pat Mullet KC8RTW	(989) 828-6657
Field Day Committee	John Tallman KB8PGW / Ch	(989) 859-0364
	Keith Johnson KB8SOE	(989) 488-4337
	Michael Vecchitto KB4EIZ	(989) 832-3932
	Jeff Mowery N8KS	(989) 488-4466
	Pat Mullet KC8RTW	(989) 828-6657
Swap Committee	Keith Johnson KB8SOE / Ch	(989) 488-4337
	Michael Vecchitto KB4EIZ	(989) 832-3932
	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 — Thursday February 3, 2011 **Law Enforcement Center** 6:00pm

Next CLUB MEETING — Thursday February 3, 2011

Salvation Army Building, 330 Waldo 7:30 PM

Talk-in 147.000+

February 2011

View from the Top of the Tower

Lee Hodges, KC8ITI

Linda commented the other day that she was ready for winter to be over. I chuckled and told her to plan on at least another six weeks of cold and snow. Cabin fever hasn't set in yet but it's getting close. I have been able to work on a few projects on the bench and continue with unboxing and sorting my treasures (read junk). I've even made a few HF contacts along the way.

Thanks to Ryan, KB8RCR for his presentation at the last club meeting on how to report activity for the Public Service Honor Roll and Station Activity Reports. If you want details on what kind of activity counts for these reports and how to submit your information, check with Ryan.

At the January ARES/RACES meeting pictures were taken for the new RACES cards that are being issued. If you have an old card, you need to check with John, W8QN on your status and see about getting a new card.

Before the last club meeting, I received an email from the Saginaw club that they were having an auction at their next club

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



meeting. It turns out that the Saginaw club meets the day after our meeting on Friday night. I made an announcement at our meeting and Pat, KD8IVZ and Wendy, KD8IWB said that they would like to go down if Linda and I would go too. We made a night of it by going to dinner and then to the club meeting. I didn't see anything

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@arrrl.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@arrrl.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@arrrl.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.arrrl.org/arrrlvec/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@arrrl.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@arrrl.net) or Lee, KC8ITI (kc8iti@arrrl.net)

that I really needed but it didn't stop me from bidding and buying a couple of things. I think Pat wishes he would have driven the truck instead of the car because there were some good deals on some rather nice antennas. There just wasn't room for them in the car so he had to pass on them. It was nice to renew some old friendships with the members of the Saginaw club. I expect some of them to make a courtesy call at one of our meetings in the near future.

We are all set to start our General Licensing class. Our first class will be February 2nd at the Salvation Army Building, 330 Waldo here in Midland. Classes will be Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7 PM till 9 PM through March 30th. We will be using the *General Class License Manual, sixth edition* from the ARRL as our text. If you are interested in upgrading or know of someone that would like to upgrade let me know so we can add you or them to the roster. One note: if you need a book let me know as soon as possible. The General question pool is changing this July so I won't be ordering any more books than we need for this class (I don't want to be stuck with books we won't be using again). As an instructor, I get a discount on the books so I can pass the savings on to you.

We will be scheduling a testing session at the conclusion of the General class and as soon as we have a date and time, we will let you know.

I've reserved the Salvation Army Building through June for classes so expect an announcement soon on when we will be offering an Extra licensing class. Right now, it looks like we will be starting that class in mid April on the same Monday/Wednesday schedule.

At the last meeting, we had a discussion about advertising for the swap. Years ago, Raleigh, W8QOI made arrangements for us to place flyers at Michigan tourist centers. We received a letter from the state stating that if we wanted to participate, we needed to get our trifold flyers to them to place in their display racks. There were several questions about how effective this was. We could see where flyers would work at the Clare rest stop but we weren't convinced that they would do anything for us having flyers at Iron Mountain, Dundee or other points of entry into

the state. Others stated that even if we sent the flyers there was no guarantee they would be placed in the racks. The only way to make sure the flyers were available was to visit the rest stops and look for them. It still seems like the best advertising is word of mouth. To that end with the spring swap season getting under way, as you attend various venues mention our swap and when they become available take some swap flyers with you.

At last year's swap we had a great presentation. This year, instead of having one presentation, we will try to return to having multiple shorter presentations throughout the day. So, if you have some ideas on what we could use to fill these slots let the swap committee know. If you have made a presentation at a club meeting and you think you would like to share it again let us know. If you saw a presentation that you think would be good let us know. We aren't above twisting arms if we have to. Remember these don't have to be individual efforts. They can be panel discussions or round table types of formats as well. Let's put our heads together and see what we can come up with.

I have updated club rosters with call signs, names and phone numbers. If you would like one, catch me at the club meeting or contact me and I'll email you a copy. Just let me know what format you can handle.

I've rambled on way too long, so I'll wrap it up for this month. One of the HF contacts I made the other day was with a 12-year-old from Atlanta, GA. I first heard him while tuning across 20 meters with the Jupiter where he had a mini pileup going on. I thought it would be neat to contact him on the Collins rig so I shut down the Jupiter and fired up the S-Line. Getting on frequency, I made contact and during our exchange I told him I was using a vintage Collins radio. To my surprise, he told me he had an uncle that used to work for Collins and that the uncle had a whole shack of Collins gear. He hoped that one day his uncle would let him have some of that great equipment he could call his own. It warmed my heart that a youngster would understand and appreciate our wonderful heritage.

Best regards, Lee - KC8ITI

MARC Minutes Linda Hodges, KC8MUD

The meeting was called to order by Lee KC8ITI at 7:35 P.M. with 37 in attendance. A sign-in sheet was passed around and introductions were made.

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

- EC/RO Report-John W8QN- ARES®/RACES members stopped at the Midland County Services building to have their pictures taken for new ID cards. Members had a field trip of equipment room at Midland County Services building. April is tentative date for Skywarn® class. Application for grant money has been successful.

- General Class- Lee KC8ITI- Will be held at the Salvation Army Building starting February 2nd from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at the Salvation Army Building 330 Waldo St. Contact Lee or Bob W8LSS for more information. A discussion followed about how to advertise the class.

- Swap- Keith KB8SOE – The Swap is June 18th at the Salvation Army Building. Discussions included advertising, presentations (if you have ideas for them, tell Keith), and food delivery service.

- Other Swaps & Events-Lee KC8ITI – Saginaw Valley Amateur Radio Club is having an auction at their regular club meeting on January 7th at the Red Cross Building in Saginaw. Hazel Park and Livonia were Swap locations mentioned.

- New Club Roster- Lee KC8ITI has formatted an updated club roster. If you

would like one, contact Lee.

- Donation- A donation of some vacuum tubes was given to Bill AB8JF. Thank you.

- MS Walk-Chris KB8UIH- The MS Walk is on April 30th from 7:00 A.M. to about 1:00 P.M. Any and all help is appreciated. See Chris.

- Christmas Party wrap up-Dorie N8WTQ- Lots of fun and the music and food was great. Thanks to everyone who came out for the night.

- QSL Cards-Bill AB8JF- Bill has collector QSL Cards from Raleigh's stuff.

- Welcome Back- To Dave N8LBF

- Field Day-Lee KC8ITI- Field Day location and event, short discussion followed.

- Ammo Can- Steve WA8Y is looking for a place to purchase an ammo can or similar box to put his radio in.

NET CONTROL:

Jan 13th Keith KB8SOE

Jan 20th John W8QN

Jan 27th Lee KC8ITI

- Presentation- Ryan KB8RCR explained in detail how to make station activity PSHR reports to the ARRL and why it's so important. Thank-you Ryan.

An Adjournment motion was made by Larry N8CGP and seconded by Chris KB8UIH.

The meeting ended at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda KC8MUD

MARC Secretary

Upcoming Events

Feb 14-18	School Club Roundup
Apr 7	Skywarn Training
Apr 30	MS Walk

Michigan Hamfests

Feb 12, 2011	Cherryland
Feb 20, 2011	Livonia
Mar 19, 2011	Marshall
Apr 2, 2011	Lowell
Apr 16, 2011	Milford
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

My Two Cents

Pat Mullet, KC8RTW

Things have been quiet on the radio front this month as far as I'm concerned. I've spent most of the month recovering from my fall, doing exercises and undertaking in-home physical therapy. It seems to be working, my legs feel stronger and my therapist is pleased. If I don't suffer any setbacks, I should make the February meeting. I certainly hope so, as from reading both the Minutes and Lee's column, it looks as if I missed a lot by not attending the January meeting.

Though I didn't get any air-time on the hf bands, I did have a discussion with John, W8QN concerning APRS and my inability to get my station into the network.

After talking it over with John, I thought the trouble was my TNC being misaligned, so I connected the radio with my laptop soundcard setup. The laptop worked fine with my HT when I brought it to the ARES meeting where packet was the topic, so I had high hopes for this lashup.

When I fired everything up, I could hear several stations, but after half an hour of attempts, my station would not hit any of the nearby digipeaters that I could hear—I verified this by going online and checking the APRS internet backbone <www.aprs.fi>. Something's definitely not kosher on my end, especially when

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.

I've tracked mobiles west of Mt. Pleasant that are relayed through the KB8UIH-2 digi on the east side of Midland. But enough of that.

I'm planning on getting in some time on hf, both making voice contacts and possibly setting up to check out some of the digital action down there.

That's enough for this time around, hope to see you on the air.

73, Pat KC8RTW

ARES®/RACES

John Wolters, W8QN

The February ARES/RACES meeting will be held February 3rd at the Law Enforcement Center at 6pm. We

will review the setup of equipment, briefly discuss HSMM (High Speed Multimedia), and pass out new RACES

cards. All are welcome to attend.

License Upgrade Class Forming

The Midland Amateur Radio Club will be offering classes for those wanting to upgrade to the General level class and gain greater operating privileges in the world of Amateur Radio. The free classes will be open to interested residents from Midland and the surrounding counties. Starting Wednesday, February 2nd, the class will meet each Monday and Wednesday for the next eight weeks at the Salvation Army building, 330 Waldo Street. The class begins at 7:00 pm and

runs about two hours.

There is no fee for the class, though students will need to purchase the study guide—The *ARRL General License Manual, Sixth Edition*. When purchased through the Club, the guides will be available at a discount from the over-the-counter price. After the conclusion of the class, MARC will conduct a VE session for the class as well anyone wishing to try for any of the available levels of license.

Preparations are underway for an Extra level class which is scheduled to begin soon after the General Class, provided enough interest is shown. To register for the class, or to be placed on a contact list for the introductory level class, contact either Lee Hodges at (989) 652-6213 or Bob Winchester (989) 631-9169. You may email Lee at kc8iti@arrl.net, or Bob at w8lss@arrl.net.

National Weather Service to Conduct Severe Storm Safety Class

The National Weather Service will be conducting Storm Spotter Training April 7th, at 7:00pm at the Midland Law Enforcement Center, 2727 Rodd St. Conducted by NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Rich Pollman, there will

be no charge for the class which will run approximately two hours, and is jointly sponsored by the Midland County Department of Emergency Services and the Midland Amateur Radio Club. These classes are meant to train Skywarn® volunteers

for Midland County and the surrounding area. The class is open to anyone and those who do are not committed to become Skywarn® volunteers.

For more information, contact John Wolters, W8QN at 832-9122.

MS Walk Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to provide communications support for the annual Midland MS Walk. The walk will occur Saturday April 30th, and originate from the Central Middle School, 305 East Rear-don. Registration runs from 9:00 a.m. though 10:30 a.m. with Opening Ceremonies at 9:45 a.m. The official Walk start time is 10:00 a.m. Around fifteen volunteers are needed to cover the three-

mile course—operators need to be in place by 8:30 AM.

Last year Walk MS-Midland welcomed more than 400 walkers and volunteers while raising over \$59,500!

Plans are underway to make this year's event a great day of fun and festivities in support of those living with multiple sclerosis, their families, and caregivers.

A light breakfast and snacks will be provided. You are welcome to bring drinks, snacks, or lunch for yourself.

The MS walk is a low impact event, giving hams interested in public service a chance to get their toes wet in an emergency services-type environment. For more information, please contact me.

73, Chris KB8UIH

Technical Topics and Information

(ARRL Contest Update—Jan. 5, 2011) A pair of *eham.net* technical articles caught my eye and may give you some ideas, too. The first is for every little pistol's dream - a 40 meter beam.

The article "Vertical Moxon for 40 Meters" by N8MUS describes hanging a vertical wire beam antenna under a KT34A tribander. The second article is a classic by one of the site's founders -

"Fighting CC&R's: 20M 4-Square Array" by W4AN (SK). It shows how to make the best of a compromise situation and still have a useful and capable antenna system.

Instead of soldering aluminum wire, trying splicing as described by Tod, KØTO. "Wrap 5 turns of aluminum wire tightly around the second aluminum wire

and wrap 5 turns of the second wire around the first wire about 3 inches away from the first splice wrap. The result is a very satisfactory splice between the

wires." Tod recommends stainless steels fasteners to clamp the wires.

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

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 February

AA8EJ
K8RI
N8JBW

K8RRB
KB8TSO
W8SEX

WB8FYR
WD8ODG
WB8RCR

K7GTK
WZ8Z

Memberships Expiring in March

K6VWE
K8VB
KB8PGV

Current Active Club Membership 69

Birthdays Celebrated in January/February

WA8KJR 1/2
KD8HIF 1/6
K7GTK 1/8
KB8VNX 1/11
WZ8Z 1/12
KD8FRH 1/12

KA8HQP 1/13
N8NNA 1/14
KD8GRQ 1/19
KD8IVZ 1/20
N8KRL 1/24
AB8TJ 1/26

KD8JQY 1/28
KB8QWQ 1/29
KD8HID 1/29
KC8ITI 2/2
AA8EJ 2/3
W8JBD 2/4

KB8LQM 2/8
W8NON 2/14
KD8EJK 2/14
KB8MCI 2/15
WW9E 2/18

Anniversaries Celebrated in January/February

KC8ZMQ and Karen 01/01
KA8EZT and Linda 01/02
KC8TQS and Julia 02/14
WW9E and KB9YSQ 02/15

Information is from data received 1/11/2011

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