



MIDLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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www.w8kea.org

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LIFE MEMBERS

Jack W8PHG (SK), Larry K8SQB, Don W8WOJ, Lee KC8ITI, Dennis N8ERF, 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 December 1, 2011, 6:00 PM
Next CLUB Meeting — Thursday December 1, 2011, 7:30 PM
Salvation Army Building, 330 Waldo Ave.
Talk-in 147.000+

December 2011

Static Discharge

Kevin Martin, KD8QAM

It has been another long and crazy month. Spelling and math tests, and more leaves. I still have a few trees with leaves on them. I expect that everyone is ready for the cold weather. Weekend trips to the hardware for fuel stabilizer and odds and ends should have things near ready.

Reading through the manuals for my radios has left me with some doubts. I was concerned about the radio faces cracking and the other effects of the cold. All the paperwork states it will be within its operating temperatures. I may just push my luck and give it a whirl this year and see what happens when all the dust settles.

I noticed that we have some new pictures up on the web site (www.w8kea.org). I hope that you can find an opportunity to see them. The new web site is coming along quite well. I really like the calendar placement. Keith, KB8SOE is doing a great job with everything.

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



I haven't been on the air much lately, but I have been tuning in. At night I like to just turn on the HT and set it on the kitchen table. Even if it is just for some back ground noise, I still

do it. I believe that issue with moisture in my trunk has been corrected. I will be very disappointed if I can't get my FT-857 mounted in the trunk this week.

I hope that I will get to see everyone

at the Christmas party. Merry Christmas and Season's Greetings to all, from the Martin family.

Kevin, KD8QAM

MARC Minutes

Linda Hodges, KC8MUD

MARC MEETINGS

Mark Rodgers, KC8GRQ, 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 Mark at (517) 672-1060, or via e-mail: kc8grq@yahoo.com

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 Keith, KB8SOE, at kb8soe@arrrl.net.

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 Kevin (cherryredirocz@sbcglobal.net)

The meeting started at 7:00 P.M. at the Law Enforcement Center for Winter Weather Watch Training. Steve Cousidine and Matt Mosteiko were the presenters.

- Our club meeting was called to order at 8:35 P.M. by Kevin KD8QAM with 33 in attendance. An attendance sheet was passed around.

- If you have any corrections or additions to the minutes please bring them to the attention of the secretary.

- PSHR—Ryan KB8RCR—Please be sure and give your Public Service Reports to Ryan so that he can process them. If you have questions about how or what to report check with Ryan.

- Tech. Class—Lee KC8ITI—Class will start on November 7th at 7:00 P.M. at the Salvation Army Building.

- Generator—Dennis N8ERF- We currently have \$243.00 into the generator. The engine is in great shape. \$475.00 will fix the remainder of what's wrong and make it last a lot longer. A motion was made to spend the \$475.00. Seconded and passed.

- Parade—Dorie N8WTQ—Line-up

at 8:30 A.M. at the Dow High School parking lot on November 19th. Join us if you can. Donations of wrapped candy to throw are greatly appreciated. Ryan KB8RCR has made his trailer available if we would like to use it.

- Christmas Party—Dorie N8WTQ—The date is December 2nd. Social time begins at the Lee Township Hall at 5:30 P.M. and we'll eat at 6:00. A motion on the floor to spend \$100.00 to have the *Sweet Adelines* return. Seconded and passed. Don't forget your white elephant gift. The cost is \$10.00 per person.

NET Control:

Nov 10th	Kevin KD8QAM
Nov 17th	John W8QN
Nov 24th	Lee KC8ITI

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorie N8WTQ and seconded by Lee KC8ITI.

The meeting ended at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda KC8MUD
MARC Secretary

My Two Cents

Pat Mullet, KC8RTW

I'm finding working on this month's newsletter a bit of a struggle. I just got a pair of new bifocals last week, and the prescription for my astigmatism has changed. The distance vision is great, sharp and clear, but when trying to read, pages tend to look a bit distorted; wider on the top than on the bottom. When I'm looking at a computer screen, it looks as if the screen is curved, something like trying to read something printed on the inside of a barrel. The good news is that the doctor says I should adjust to the change within a couple of weeks.

Well, I finally pinpointed the problem with my APRS station last month. Mark Rodgers, KC8GRQ wanted to attempt to make a simplex QSO after the weekly net

and then listen to the output of my APRS station to determine if the tones being transmitted were distorted. I hooked up the antenna and made a quick test call to the repeater, and Lee, KC8ITI answered, stating that my audio was covered by considerable hum. Double-checking the power supply revealed the problem. It'd been a *loooong* time since I actually read the labeling on the supply, a regulated non-switcher, and I'd been going on the assumption that it was capable of supplying 10 amps, which is barely enough to allow my VHF rig to operate on high power. Surprise, it was only rated for 8 amps. Attempting to pull 50 watts was saturating the transformer and causing the AC to be rectified to be a noisy square

wave, rather than a nice, clean sine wave. This, in turn caused all sorts of hash on the DC output. I swapped out that supply with the one I use to run my voice rigs, and was able to make the hop to the KB8UIH-2 Midland digi. It wasn't a reliable hop, as I was only able to hit it once or twice over a 36 hour test period, but I now know that my system works, and I should be able to go full time as a digi/I-gate next spring, once I get a good supply and get the dedicated antenna up.

While I was tinkering with my APRS system, I looked into some of the bells and whistles built into *UI-View 32*, the software that I use. With a few simple configuration changes, you're able to set up your APRS station computer to act as a local server, allowing other computers running *UI-View 32* on your LAN to connect to the APRS data-stream without setting up another TNC/transceiver.

I'm still having difficulties configuring *FLDigi* so that I can operate the digital modes on HF. It still can't find the dedicated second soundcard that I'm using for amateur radio unless I have another program accessing it. I've even gone to the extreme of fully removing all traces of *FLDigi* and re-installing it so I could start with a clean slate, but to no avail. I'm also running into the problem that it can't seem to find the *AGWPE*-driven sound-

card interface for PTT control. I'm pretty certain that this, at least, is just that I don't have *AGWPE* configured correctly.

Getting back to APRS for a moment, if any of you are running *UI-View 32*, you'll be happy to know that *Precision Mapping Streets & Traveler*, better known as simply *PMap*, is upgrading to version 9 at the end of November. A free add-on to *UI-View*, *PMapServer*, allows *UI-View* to use the scrollable, scalable vector maps and drawing routines from *PMap* within *UI-View*. A program bundled with *UI-View*, *UI-NWS*, pulls National Weather Service watch and warning information from the Internet and overlays it on the *UI-View* maps, either those provided via *PMap* or regular static maps. Another free add-on program, *NWS-Get*, downloads NWS weather radar images and underlays it under the *PMap* maps. This program requires that you have *PMap* and will not work with static maps. As you can see, this could be a very useful tool when it comes to our Skywarn® activities, especially if mobile units are equipped with APRS trackers. More information about *UI-View* can be found at uiview.org, while the *Precision Mapping* webpage is undertowsoftware.com.

I think I've rambled on enough for this month, hope to hear you on the air.

73, Pat, KC8RTW

ARRL Michigan Section Combines Programs for Synergy

(ARES E-Letter—Nov 16, 2011) Michigan's Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPSC) encompasses the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and SKYWARN, the service provided in cooperation with the National Weather Service. ARES is activated for mostly any event where a communications need exists within the framework of the FCC rules. RACES is activated for an incident that the government sees a need for additional communications support. Generally, the Governor of a state or their duly appointed representative makes the call. It is a program administered by FEMA. SKYWARN is administered by the National Weather Service, of course. There are four National Weather Service sites in Michigan -- Detroit/White Lake, Grand Rapids, Gaylord and Marquette.

Michigan was one of the first if not the first state in the United States to recognize

the need for Amateur Radio operators to be cross-trained in both ARES and RACES protocols. This aids the process of assistance provided in the sense that cross-trained individuals who start out activated as an ARES operator can just change hats and continue operations wearing the RACES hat as the situation evolves. This has worked very well, and is due in no small part to several individuals in the Eighth Region (Ohio and Michigan, in particular) and most especially to George Race, WB8BGY, former SEC, Section Manager and Great Lakes Division Director, as well as others.

The Michigan program's mission statement: "*Develop the Michigan ARPSC Program into a fully integrated communications team ready, willing and able to provide radio communications support to Public Service Agencies and the citizens of Michigan.*" - Michigan ARES, Dale Williams, WA8EFK, Section Manager

Upcoming Events

11/19	Midland Santa Parade
12/2	MARC Christmas Party
12/4	Skywarn Recog. Day
12/31	Straight Key Night

Michigan Hamfests

12/4	Mt. Clemens
1/15	Hazel Park
2/4	Negaunee
2/11	Traverse City
2/19	Livonia
3/17	Marshall
4/14	Milford
6/17	Monroe

* denotes tentative date based on 2011 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, 1830 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.

Club Field Day Generator Status

At the 2011 Field Day event, the W8KEA Onan generator failed with a bang. The generator has two separate 120V lines and can deliver 240 volts. One of the 120V lines failed but the other one was fine. A committee consisting of Lee KC8ITI, Larry N8CGP, Keith KB8SOE, Del WB8FYR, Denny WD8PBT, Pat KD8IVZ and Dennis N8ERF was formed to explore the options of either repairing the generator, replacing the generator with a new one and selling the old one for parts, or doing nothing. We were concerned about the cost of fixing the generator while being unsure of the status of the engine. The generator is at least 50 years old. The concern with the engine was that the valve seals will wear unless they are hardened seals. At October's membership meeting we learned from Bill, AB8JF, that Raleigh, W8QOI, had determined that the seals were indeed hardened seals. That buoyed up the committee and we decided to go ahead and have the generator evaluated. We learned from R&W Elec-

tric in Midland that Hamilton Electric in Saginaw was an authorized Onan dealer and repair center. The unit was taken to Hamilton Electric for evaluation.

In the meantime, we considered a replacement. The committee came to the conclusion that there were more than enough generators owned by club members who would be willing to loan them for Field Day. The other potential use of the generator is to provide backup power to the repeater. In that case, the club member's generators are probably going to be in use. The committee decided that a generator in the 2 to 4 KW range would be sufficient. Data were collected from an online search as well as a search of local retailers, revealing a mind-boggling range of options. The feedback ratings and testimonials online for many of the "Big Box" generators were less than encouraging.

Fortunately, we didn't have to wade through all of the replacement options. Hamilton reported back the engine was in great shape, having passed a compres-

sion test with flying colors. One set of brushes had failed and scored the armature. They reported that due to a design flaw, the brushes had engaged the armature incorrectly. They replaced these \$20 brushes after modifying them to prevent a repeat problem, cleaned up the armature and the generator was back in business. They did notice that the second set of another type of brushes (\$200) was quite worn and recommended replacement. The committee recommended that the brushes be replaced while Hamilton had the generator and so we wouldn't have to worry if they would fail just when we needed them the most. The final cost is estimated to be \$475. A motion to complete the repair was passed at the November MARC membership meeting. At this time the brushes have been ordered and the generator should be repaired by the time you read this.

Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF

Midland Santa Parade

The annual Midland Santa Parade will be held Saturday, November 19. Line-up for the Parade will be at the Mid-

land High School parking lot at 9 a.m. Anyone wishing to participate should meet us there. An note that was attached

to the entry stated there is no smoking in the staging area and school parking lot.

MARC Christmas Party

The MARC Christmas Party will be held Friday, December 2nd at the Lee Township Hall. Doors will be open for social gathering at 5:30 and Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Cost for the meal is \$10 a person. Carousel Catering will be preparing the food again this year and the *Sweet Adelines* will be performing some

Christmas songs for us. Don't forget to bring your white elephant gift.

Payment for attendance may be made at the door but reservations should be made by Monday, November 28th, to allow the caterer to prepare sufficient servings

The Lee Town Hall is located at the

corner of 9 mile Rd and Olsen Rd. Talk-ins will be on the Midland repeater, 147.00 MHz.

You may contact Dorrie French to make reservations at (989) 835-5562, or via email at wm_here4u@yahoo.com.

SVARA to Offer VE Exam

The Saginaw Valley ARA will be conducting a VE exam session on Saturday, December 3rd, at the Saginaw

chapter of the American Red Cross, 1232 N. Michigan Ave. Registration begins at 10:30am, and walk-ins are wel-

come. For more information, contact David Paquette at (989) 792-7178, or via email at sail4fun06@yahoo.com

SKYWARN Recognition Day Set for December 4

(ARRLWeb—11/18/2010) The 12th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day Special Event will take place Saturday,

December 4, 2010. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service as a way to recognize the commit-

ment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator

David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office, working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event.

The idea for the first SRD took shape in the summer of 1999. Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Goodland, Kansas NWS office Scott Mentzer, N0QE, tried to find a way to recognize the valuable contributions storm spotters make to the National Weather Service. "Since many of those storm spotters were also hams," Floyd told the ARRL, "it seemed like a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on Amateur Radio."

With the approval of NWS headquarters and a commitment to participate from many local NWS offices across the country, the first National Weather Service Special Event took place on November 27, 1999. "At the end of the event, almost 16,000 QSOs were logged, with contacts made to all 50 states and 63 countries," Floyd recounted. "The Des Moines forecast office took the honor of making the most contacts of any office that first year with 761 QSOs, and went on to lead the pack until 2003 by logging between 1300-1500 contacts each year."

Floyd said that feedback from that first event was "overwhelmingly positive" from both the NWS staff and the local ham clubs: "Many local club members who came to that first event had never visited an NWS office before. When they came for the special event, they learned

the value of their reports and how they were used in conjunction with existing technology." And so began an annual tradition. The following year, 85 of the 122 NWS offices — almost 70 percent — participated in the event, making nearly 24,000 QSOs.

In 2001, the name of the event was changed to SKYWARN Recognition Day, a name Floyd said better relayed what the day was all about: "Each year since the inception of SRD, the number of NWS offices participating with local ham clubs has increased; more than 100 offices sign up each year to take part. The most contacts made during any SRD occurred in 2006 when — thanks to and local hams in the Grand Junction, Colorado area — 1640 QSOs were logged!"

Station call signs have also changed over the years. Floyd said that some NWS offices and clubs apply for a special event call sign, "such as W3B in Brownsville or N0Y in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Other call signs hint at office location, including WX9GRB in Green Bay and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center. Still others represent more of the big picture, as in KC0SKY in Pleasant Hill, Missouri."

Floyd said that as SKYWARN Recognition Day has grown throughout the years, he has seen a greater use of digital communications in addition to CW, RTTY and packet radio: "Each year, more and more contacts are being made using EchoLink, Winlink and the use of

e-mail reflectors." In keeping with the NWS setting, stations are asked to include a weather report of their location in their exchange.

In 2009, the Melbourne, Florida office (WX4MLB) reported the most QSOs — 1373 QSOs — than any other NWS office; the Des Moines, Iowa office (K0DMX), with 912 QSOs, placed second. Melbourne also contacted 77 NWS offices, the most reported. Lincoln, Illinois (WX9ILX) was close behind, with 72 QSOs to other NWS offices.

2010 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 4 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and more than 40 countries during the 24 hour event. Even if you make just one QSO to an NWS office, you are eligible to receive a certificate. Just submit a list of the station(s) you worked (along with a self-addressed stamped envelope) to SKYWARN Recognition Day, 920 Armory Rd, Goodland, KS 67735. Many NWS offices also send out special QSL cards for this event. If you haven't yet joined in the fun of SKYWARN Recognition Day, make 2010 your year to do so!

Information about participating offices, frequencies, exchanges and more can be found at

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/hamradio/index.php>

California University Sees Record Number of Freshmen Take Tech Exam

(ARRLWeb—11/09/2011) When 114 freshmen electrical engineering students at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California, gathered on Friday, November 4 to take their Technician exam, they made history. Not only was the session one of the largest exam sessions ever, it was the largest exam session sponsored by a college Amateur Radio club and the largest exam session ever held in San Luis Obispo County. After all the exams were graded, 96 of the 114 students were brand new licensed amateurs, joining the next generation of radio amateurs in the US.

Hosted by the Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club (CPARC), this exam session

broke its previous record of 62 new licensees, set earlier this year in October. CPARC members made special testing arrangements with the ARRL to accommodate this large group. These 96 new Amateur Radio operators will join more than 700,000 other hams in the US in providing volunteer and emergency communications support for everything from local bike rides and parades to global disaster relief.

Cal Poly Electrical Engineering Department Chair Dr Dennis Derickson, AC0P, conceived the Freshman Licensing Initiative, giving the 189 students in his Introduction to Electrical Engineering Course a chance to get their radio license. Eleven ARRL Volunteer

Examiners administered the test session during the 50-minute class period; the Tech exam counted as one of the midterm exams for the class. The new licensees already had their call signs posted to the FCC website on Monday, November 7, thanks to the tremendous efforts from the ARRL VEC office.

CPARC members hosted review sessions to help the students prepare to pass their exam and to get introductory knowledge on a wide variety of electrical engineering topics. Getting an Amateur Radio license is the first step toward many career opportunities in the communications industry, from engineering unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), integrating Wi-Fi technology for many

wireless devices, creating 4G cell phone networks and designing communication subsystems on satellites. CPARC members are regularly learning about radios through retuning filters on radios and building directional antennas for transmitter hunts, as well as putting together an emergency vehicle tracking network for

the Wildflower Triathlon, using two dozen radios and GPS units, digital repeaters and Internet gateways.

Founded in 1947, the Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club has a long tradition of communications service on campus and in the San Luis Obispo community. The club maintains Emergency Communica-

tions Station No. 16 on the Cal Poly Campus for the San Luis Obispo Emergency Communications Council (SLOECC), which is equipped with emergency power and radio equipment to support various public safety agencies in the event of a disaster.

Technical Topics and Information

(ARRL Contest Update—Oct. 26, 2011) To run the output of an amplifier into more than one antenna, you'll need a power splitter. Stack switches such as those made by Array Solutions and Microham can do the job using transmission line techniques.

- F-type connectors are becoming more popular in amateur use for receive antennas and other jobs. While the most common style for equipment chassis mounting is a threaded, single-nut connector, a four-hole flange-style connect also exists - Mouser Electronics part num-

ber 161-9126. (Thanks, Mike WØBTU)

- If you know what cables will be in a run of conduit, an alternative to pulling them through the finished run is to lay them out next to the trenches and slide the conduit sections into place over the cables. Then glue the sections together as you lay them into the trenches. You can include a pull rope in to the bundle for future use. Make sure the conduit joint surfaces are completely clean before gluing. This might not be practical for very long runs of conduit, though. (Thanks, Alan K9MBQ)

- In you live in a windy area, static can build up on an antenna to disturbingly high voltages. An RF choke across the feed line will allow static to bleed off, but a high-value (10k or higher) non-inductive resistor with a 2 to 5-watt dissipation will do the job without self-resonances in the HF region. Metal-oxide resistors available from several vendors will work well. Connect the resistor across the feed line by using a tee-connector (coax) or at the terminals (parallel-conductor).

More Technical Topics and Information

(ARRL Contest Update— Nov 9, 2011) How to get that deeply-buried PL-259 loosened? With so many cables and connectors packed into a station, it can be almost impossible to turn the shell of a PL-259 in the midst of a packed panel. Several readers have contributed ideas but the best I found involve a tool for the purpose. Mike W3MC and Mark N1UK recommend the Knipex "Micro Cobra" style pliers, nylon-jawed if you can find them. Your editor has found that heavy-duty spark plug boot pullers also work and are available at a local auto-parts

store. These can turn not only the UHF shells but N, BNC, and even F!

- Tree N6TR has been fixing his Tailtwister with a new-style brake wedge. He developed this handy how-to guide for other rotator repair-ers. < <http://www.kkn.net/~tree/How%20to%20install%20the%205149320%20Tailtwister%20Brake%20Wedge%20assembly.pdf>>

- This isn't a guaranteed engineering solution but if you are considering screw-in guy anchors for a tower and aren't sure which type is the correct type, Mike NF4L suggests asking what the local tele-

phone and electric companies are using to hold up power poles. They will have already done considerable work to assess local soil conditions and selected the right model.

- If you live in a location where ice can build up on your guy wires, watch out for melting ice sliding down into the Preform Big Grips - they can be knocked loose by a big enough impact! Dave W6NL suggests placing a small hose clamp around the end of the grip - this prevents the grip from loosening due to an impact.

Why the FEMA Courses?

(ARES E-Letter—Oct 20, 2011) For many years, Amateur Radio has longed to be taken seriously by governmental authorities as a professional-quality resource in disaster response. Although there are areas of the country where achieving and maintaining emergency management agencies' respect is still a struggle, Amateur Radio's service during 9/11 and the major hurricane disasters has brought us a new level of respect and

new opportunities at the national level.

Being taken seriously as a resource comes with a price, however, that must be paid by individual volunteers, not in dollars but in precious personal time. When the federal government instituted the National Incident Management System (NIMS), it imposed a set of requirements on state and local emergency management agencies and their personnel. Affected personnel include not only

paid employees of emergency management and related agencies but also volunteers such as those in volunteer fire companies, ARES, and RACES. If the emergency management agencies are to continue receiving federal funds, personnel must complete a number of FEMA training courses having to do with the Incident Command System (ICS) and NIMS. Individuals who do not complete the training will not be allowed to parti-

cipate, even as volunteers.

These FEMA courses are free of charge, available on line or sometimes in person at emergency management offices, and not particularly difficult. The courses are useful in familiarizing volun-

teers with the principles of the Incident Command System and showing where communications fits into the ICS structure. These formal requirements are here to stay and more may follow. At the national level, Amateur Radio has earned

the respect we always wanted, bringing us closer to the emergency management establishment. - excerpted from the ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee Report (2007)

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: Yaesu FT897D. \$700.

Wanted to Buy: Power tubes such as but not limited to 4CX series, 3CX400 and larger. 4-250 and larger, 3-500 and larger. Sockets for same and particularly for 4CX1500B and 4CX3000A7. Old Repeater amp that

used a Push pull pair of tubes. I could use some 7/8" to 1.5" Helix with connectors, but need a minimum of 200' for each run. Looking for HV power transformers in the range of 2400, 2600, 2800, and 3000 VAC, 2KVA and up as well as 800VAC to 1 KV AC for screen

supplies. 6V@10A (4CX1500B), 9V @ 8.5-9A (FU728F), 9.0V @ 41.5A (4CX3000A7), and 10V@10A, filament transformers. High power tuning caps including vac variables.

Contact Roger, K8RI (K8RI@roger-halstead.com)

MARC Vital Statistics

Memberships Expiring in November

KB8PGW

Memberships Expiring in December

KB8QWQ
N8STF

KB8SOE
WA8Y

KD8MRC

Memberships Expiring in January

KB8UIH
KD8HID
KD8PDD

KD8PDE
KD8PDF
N8LBF

WB8WNF
WD8BPT

Current Active Club Membership 63

Birthdays Celebrated in November/December

K6VWE 11/13
N8UPP 11/14
KC8GQK 11/19
KD8FQF 11/21
KB8UIH 11/27
N8NVL 11/28

KC8TQV 12/1
KD8COB 12/5
WB8WNF 12/7
N8KS 12/10
N8ERF 12/10
KB8TSO 12/13

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

Anniversaries Celebrated in November/December

KB8QWO and N8DHF 11/17
KC8KOC and Jennifer 11/23
KB8UIH and Shelley 12/8

W8WOJ and KD8HIF 12/12
KD8IVZ and KD8IWB 12/16
AB8JF and N8WTQ 12/18

KD8FQF and KD8GRQ 12/19
WZ8Z and K7GTK 12/22
N8ERF and N8NNA 12/23

KD8JQY and KD8JQX 12/23

Information is from data received 11/1/2011

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