



W8KEA



MARC

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

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	Pat Mullet KC8RTW	(989) 828-6657
Swap Committee	Keith Johnson KB8SOE / Ch	(989) 488-4337
	Pat Mullet KC8RTW	(989) 828-6657

LIFE MEMBERS

Larry K8SQB, Don W8WOJ, Lee KC8ITI, Dennis N8ERF

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 — **Cancelled**
Next CLUB Meeting — Thursday April 5, 2012, **7:00 PM**
Law Enforcement Center, 2727 Rodd St.
Talk-in 147.000+

April 2012

Static Discharge

Kevin Martin, KD8QAM

With all the warm weather I am finding less time to get on the air. It seems weeds and yard work have replaced the screwdriver and soldering iron this month. I have begun to compile parts for a new antenna build. I am going to attempt a G5RV dipole. It's not overly complicated, but with an upcoming move, I don't have an accurate guess on a feed line. I am looking forward to getting away from the antenna restrictions and the neighborhood. I also want to try a Copper Cactus and a few J-poles.

The General class that was put on by Lee KC8ITI has gone really well. We've all learned a lot and the in-class demonstrations are very beneficial. Thank you Lee KC8ITI, John W8QN and Pat KD8IVZ for putting the class together for us.

Hope to see everyone at the Spring Severe Weather training at the Midland Law Enforcement Center.

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



The meeting was called to order by Kevin KD8QAM with 20 in attendance. Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was passed around.

Please bring any additions or corrections to the minutes to the attention of the secretary.

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

membership.

- EC/RO Report-John W8QN- Don't forget April's meeting is at the LEC at 7:00 P.M. for Skywarn® Training.

- General class-Lee KC8ITI- We have finished 8 of the 13 sessions. The Extra class will begin towards the end of April. A VE Session will be scheduled at the end of the class but no firm date yet. *(The VE session is now scheduled for April 14th, Saturday at 9:00 am-Ed.)*

- Swap-Keith KB8SOE- We are looking for volunteers to help make some of the calls needed around the end of May. Keith is also looking for someone who can help organize and coordinate the presenters and demonstrations. If you know someone who would like to present a radio related topic or who has a neat demo and would like to share please let Keith know. Swap fliers are being worked on.

- MS Walk-Chris KB8UIH- Please come out on April 21st and help Chris with this low impact event from 8:30 to noon. Rain or Shine. The Michigan QSO party is on the same day.

- License renewal-John W8QN- A short discussion about renewing club licenses. Also a discussion about some kids playing on the radio and how to catch them. It was mentioned it's best to ignore them so as not to encourage their activities.

- Motion on the floor- John W8QN - After an explanation and discussion John made a motion to purchase 3 USB-to-Serial adapters needed for some county equipment. It was seconded by Lee KC8ITI and the motion passed.

- Steve WA8Y- Steve talked about 2 meters and the ARRL Audio Bulletin.

- Updates-Lee KC8ITI- Lee is in the

process of updating the club's inventory. Please let Lee know if you have any items that need to be added to the list.

- Inquiry Pat KC8RTW- Pat is looking for a 10 amp power supply needed for work on an APRS digipeater in Coleman. If you know of one that can be used for that purpose please contact Pat.

- Field Day- Mark KC8GRQ-Mark is forming a committee to coordinate the Field Day efforts. A few members have volunteered their time but more would be nice. See Mark if you would like to be added to do a job on Field Day.

- More new business- Denny W8BPT- The license plates have been removed from the SATERN vehicle due to new Michigan S.O.S. rules. After telling about that, there was a lengthy discussion about how and where to advertise classes and other radio and club related events. A short survey was made to see where our club members see upcoming events. MCTV, *Coffee News* and Facebook were all mentioned.

- Newsletter-Keith KB8SOE- Keith suggested that if members would view the newsletter via their internet that it would save postage.

NET Controls:

Mar 8th John W8QN

Mar 15th Pat KC8RTW

Mar 22nd Kevin KD8QAM

Mar 29th Lee KC8ITI

- Meeting Activity-Mark KC8GRQ- Mark explained the fundamentals of Decoding APCO-25. Lots of emergency groups use these signals and its fun to figure out who uses these frequencies. Thank-you Mark.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda KC8MUD

MARC Secretary

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@arrl.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@arrl.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.arrl.org/arrlvec/exam-search.phtml?State=MI>

SUBMISSIONS FOR NEWSLETTER

Contact Pat Mullet, KC8RTW at kc8rtw@arrl.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@arrl.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@arrl.net) or Kevin (cherryredirocz@sbcglobal.net)

My Two Cents

Pat Mullet, KC8RTW

As I write this, we've just gone through the first spate of severe weather of the spring. (Meteorological Spring runs from March through May.) The weather alerts were coming hot and heavy, and while Isabella County was subject to a Tornado Warning, I was able to report high clouds and clearing skies to the southwest of Shepherd, though I heard the

sound of thunder off to the northwest.

Radar would show the storm curving around Mt. Pleasant to the northwest, only to slide to the east and produce an EF-1 tornado that damaged structures near Coleman in Midland County.

The Midland Skywarn net did its usual fine job, and the early appearance of severe weather underscores why everyone

is encouraged to attend the free Storm Spotter training offered by the National Weather Service, such as the class which is being offered at our next Club meeting, April 5th at the Law Enforcement Center in Midland.

Unfortunately, the latest event has also demonstrated why we have to be as professional as possible when we serve as Storm Spotters.

That evening, I was listening to the Saginaw Valley ARA net where it was reported that a tornado had been spotted near Mt. Pleasant. I was confused, as nothing of the sort had been mentioned on the public service channels on the scanner, and I had thought that the ham making the report had mistakenly placed the Coleman storm in Isabella County.

It was later reported in the *Morning Sun* (<http://www.themorningsun.com/art->

icles/2012/03/14/news/doc4f5fe2e55fa5999599095.txt) that a Mid Michigan Community College graphic design student had Photoshopped a tornado onto a photo of the Mt. Pleasant skyline and posted it on Facebook, claiming to have witnessed the storm "risking my life," in her words, to take the photo. WNEM TV picked up the report as fact, going so far as to post the *faux* photo on their Facebook page. The student kept up the hoax for some time before finally coming clean.

Unfortunately, sensationalism generated by those seeking notoriety serves to cast doubt on the efforts of hard-working volunteers everywhere, and worse, can cause the public to doubt the need to take action when the NWS recommends it. We all need to learn from this.

73, Pat KC8RTW

Upcoming Events

4/21	MS Walk
5/18	Dow Run
6/23-24	Field Day
7/5-8	Lupton

Michigan Hamfests

4/7	Lowell
4/14	Milford
5/5	Cadillac
6/2	Hudsonville
6/3	Chelsea
6/9	Newberry
6/16	Midland
6/17	Monroe
8/4	Escanaba
8/19	Lapeer

* Denotes date based on 2011 event

ARES®/RACES John Wolters, W8QN

As most of you know the April meeting will not be held due to the Spring Skywarn training that will be held at the Law Enforcement Center at 7 pm. Look for ARES/RACES to again occur on Thursday May 3rd at 6 pm. Current plans are to familiarize everyone with the new PC's, TNC's and software that will be placed at the EOC, CSB, and Communication Vehicle. Hope to see you there. W8QN

Public Service opportunities:

Saginaw:

Covenant Hospital 1/2 Marathon
April 10 6:30 AM to Noon.
12 to 15 operators being requested at this time.

Contact Ron Huss at:
kc8yvff@rhuss.cncfamily.com

Frankenmuth MS Walk
May 12 8:00 AM to Noon
Contact Emmett Bengry at:
w8eab@arrl.net

Run for Windy
(Swan Valley High School)
May 13 9:00 AM to Noon.
Contact Dave Schneider at:
n8erl@arrl.net

Genesee:

Crim Race.
Aug. 27 (Flint) 5:30 AM
Any and all operator's that volunteer will be worked.
At this time contact Joe Tuscher at
jt14888@aol.com

MS Walk Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to provide communications support for the annual Midland MS Walk. The walk will occur Saturday April 30, and originate from the Central Middle School, 305 East Reardon. 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,

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.

giving hams interested in public service a chance to get their toes wet in an emer-

gency services-type environment. For more information, please contact me.

73, Chris KB8UIH

Dow Run Volunteers Needed

The Annual Dow Run will occur on Saturday May 19th, and as in the past, Midland ARES and the Midland Amateur Radio Club will be providing race communications and volunteers are needed to man the checkpoints. This is a change from the usual first weekend of June date to the same weekend as Dayton in May (May 18-20). As a result the number of hams that will be available to help with the run has decreased, so we will need every volunteer we can get.

If you have not signed up to help, please contact Lee, KC8ITI, or Dennis,

N8ERF. We need the information quickly not only for planning purposes, but so we can get your information into the race officials so they can order your t-shirts.

Responsibilities of each operator include reporting passing of the lead and trail vehicles and any injuries or emergencies that occur. If you want to help but are new and "don't want to mess up," we'll pair you with an experienced operator. There are some freebies that will be given to each volunteer and your name will be included in a prize drawing

for all volunteers. We have had at least 3 winners in recent years.

All packets containing assignments and other goodies will be passed out at the May 3rd MARC meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting come to the Communications Vehicle to pick up your assignment. Talk-in will be on the 147.00 repeater. Remember that the roads close by 7:30 am the morning of the Race, so you should be in your assigned place before that. The event is typically over before noon. If you need to leave early just let us know.

Midland ARC to Conduct License Testing

The Midland Amateur Radio Club will be conducting an Amateur Radio License Testing Session on Saturday, April 14th, 2012 at the Salvation Army Building, 330 Waldo Rd., Midland, Michigan. Registration will begin at 8:30 am, with testing shortly thereafter. Walk-ins are welcome.

Candidates are reminded to bring two pieces of identification, pencils, and photocopies of any current licenses. Calculators are allowed. The test fee is \$15.00. Checks should be made out to ARRL/VEC.

Testing for all classes of license — Technician, General and Extra — will be

offered. Those interested in earning their licenses or upgrading should note that learning Morse code is no longer a requirement.

Contact Dennis Klipa, N8ERF, at (989) 636-7704 for more information. You may email Dennis at n8erf@arrl.net.

Extra Class License Class Offered

The Midland Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring an Extra Class licensing class starting April 23, 2012 and running through June 13, 2012. The class will meet on Monday and Wednesday nights from 7 PM until 9 PM at the Salvation Army Building which is located at 330 Waldo Ave. here in Midland, Michigan. Our study guide will be the AR-

RL Extra Class License Manual, Ninth Edition. If you need a study guide, let me know and I can order you one at an instructor discounted price of \$23. Other than the cost of the manual there is no charge for this class. *Please Note:* The Extra Class License question pool changes on July 1, 2012 therefore *I Will Not* be ordering any additional manuals

for this class beyond those that are requested. A testing session will be offered at the conclusion of this class. If you have questions or are interested in taking this class please contact Lee Hodges at (989) 374-0032 or email me at KC8ITI@ARRL.NET

Former Midland ARC Members Go SK

(The following information was taken from the Midland Daily News.-Ed.)

• Frank Bush, N8OVT, ex KB8BFY died March 11, 2012 at his home. He was 89. A veteran of WWII and Korea, Frank worked as an auto salesman, insurance agent and financial analyst.

Frank is survived by his four children, five grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

• Paul Howard Sheffield, W8GED, 93, died Sunday March 11, 2012. He was employed by The Dow Chemical Co. for

38 years as assistant plant superintendent and later as an operations planner. He was a past president of the Midland Amateur Radio Club.

Surviving in addition to his wife, is his son, brother, sister, two grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Explore the World with Amateur Radio!

New 60-Meter Privileges Now In Effect

(ARRLWeb—03/05/2012) Effective today amateurs have new privileges on the 60 meter band. In addition to an increase in effective radiated power from 50 to 100 W, hams can now transmit CW and PSK31 on the following channel-center frequencies:

Channel 1: 5332.0 kHz
Channel 2: 5348.0 kHz
Channel 3: 5358.5 kHz
Channel 4: 5373.0 kHz

Channel 5: 5405.0 kHz

Amateurs can also transmit Upper Sideband voice and PACTOR III on the following suppressed carrier frequencies (the frequencies typically shown on transceiver displays):

Channel 1: 5330.5 kHz
Channel 2: 5346.5 kHz
Channel 3: 5357.0 kHz
Channel 4: 5371.5 kHz
Channel 5: 5403.5 kHz

For more information, download *60-Meter Operations – New Privileges and Recommended Practices*. Also, a revised ARRL band chart is available for download.

Watch for the article “*New Privileges on 60 Meters*” by Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager, later this month in the April issue of *QST* magazine.

ARRL Announces New DXCC Fee Structure

(ARRLWeb—03/15/2012) The DX Century Club (DXCC) is the premier Amateur Radio operating award. Available to hams around the world, tens of thousands of awards have been issued since 1945 under the modern award program. In 2012, the DXCC program is not only still thriving, but it is growing, both in participation and in numbers of award options. The addition of Logbook of the World (LoTW) and soon, the addition of an Online DXCC Application utility, will continue to help the program grow. Effective Monday, April 2, the way DXCC fees are assessed will change. These changes will include both rate increases and rate decreases.

The ARRL continues to add new and exciting twists to the DXCC platform, including a special 75th anniversary Diamond DXCC Challenge award for 2012. The DXCC Challenge -- which counts total entities confirmed on 160-6 meters -- has proven to be extremely popular as a competitive supplement for everyone, complementing the lifetime achievement of the DXCC Honor Roll. The ARRL website continues to add to the fun with many pages of award statistics and information, including DXCC standings for each award that are updated daily. Inside Logbook of The World, each user can see which records are stored in the DXCC

system for all of his or her entities on each band and mode. In 2011, the DXCC Desk processed more than 11,450 DXCC applications and endorsements.

As a direct result of the terrific popularity of the DXCC program, our customer service has lagged a bit. DXCC participants know that when the end-of-year deadline is reached, the load on the staff is quite heavy and the turnaround time increases to more than 10 weeks. Our staff want to provide better service and will continue to try to do so. The old fee structure is one of the culprits that increased the workload. Most participants submitted one or two applications each year, with each of those applications loaded with at least 120 QSOs and included a Logbook application component, as well.

One of the reasons these applications have been so large is that for many years, DXCC charged extra fees for second and subsequent applications each year. Additionally, application fees were waived for LoTW applications if they were tied to a paper application, adding a large amount of work for the staff as they matched applications. Frequently, there were hundreds of applications on both the paper application side and on the LoTW side, waiting for their “hybrid match” to arrive, delaying processing and setting the whole

operation back.

For applications received on April 2, 2012 and after, we are changing the fee structure for several reasons:

- Promoting more frequent applications
- Removing the “hybrid application” problem
- Simplifying the price structure for DXCC
- Raising the rates slightly to help offset ARRL’s increased costs
- Improving customer service

The rates for DXCC have not changed since 2003. While the rates are going up for some single applications, for those who continue to submit multiple applications each year, the costs will be less. Accompanying the end of the “hybrid application” is a lower per-QSO fee for using credits in LoTW and the addition of a small application fee. “We want participants to use LoTW as often as they can and like” explained said Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. “LoTW applications are easier for everyone to process and remain the ‘way of the future’ to participate in awards programs. The costs of using LoTW are far less than traditional QSLing, when one considers the costs of obtaining QSLs which then need to be stored, recorded and carried to a card



ARRL Field Day
JUNE 23 & 24, 2013
www.arrl.org

checker or sent to HQ." As in the past, US participants must be ARRL members to receive a DXCC award. See the link below for an explanation of the new fees.

As indicated earlier, ARRL HQ will very soon launch an Online DXCC Application. This new tool will allow the client to supply the data from traditional paper QSLs in a digital form, so that DXCC staff will not have to perform the data entry.

The way the Online Application works is that the participant can select the cards that he or she would like to have

checked by a card checker and, at his or her convenience, type that data into a form (which can be saved and retrieved at any time until submitted) and make an application for DXCC. When the application is finished, the participant will be able to print the list of cards and take the list and the cards (in the same order that they are entered into the form) to a card checker who will check the cards, note any changes and send the form to ARRL HQ. The card checker's job is exactly the same as before, except he or she does not need to collect a payment (unless the parti-

cipant has worked that out with the card checker), as the client can pay online. At ARRL HQ, DXCC staff will be able to access the file submitted by the client, quickly make any changes noted by the card checker and process the application. The Online DXCC Application will have rates that are half those of a traditional paper QSL application that is sent to ARRL HQ.

For more information, see the complete story at <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-announces-new-dxcc-fee-structure>.

Technical Topics and Information

(ARRL Contest Update—Feb. 29, 2012) When using the paralleled-coax technique of making balanced transmission line from coax, does that change the velocity factor? "Nope...it's exactly the same." What about the matched loss of the line? "The matched loss per unit length of the resulting twin-lead will also be exactly the same." (Thanks, Jim W6RMK and Steve G3TXQ)

- You can run tetrode amplifier tubes as grounded-grid as described in this classic article (<http://ahars.com.au/documents/eimac01.pdf>) by Bill Orr W6SAI in which he describes such operation of the 4-125A, 4-250A, 4-400A, and 4-1000A. (Thanks, Bill WA4LAV)

- John KE7KDK recently compiled

this list of Do-It-Yourself (DIY) electronic and circuit-building apps for the Android operating system (<http://life-hacker.com/5884556/electrodroid-is-a-reference-for-all-of-your-diy-electronics-and-circuit-building-projects?tag=android-downloads>). And while we're in DIY mode, here's an *Instructables* lesson on the how-to of motors (www.instructables.com/id/How-To-Motors/). What do motors have to do with radio? Ask any SteppIR antenna owner!

Technical Web Site of the Week - The Bliley crystal pictured in the previous issue prompted this recollection by Ellen W1YL of the famous VF1 "variable frequency" (or "rubber") crystals. "Yes it was intentionally designed to allow you to change frequency-- as I seem

to recall (over 60 years ago now!) it had a variable pressure plate with a exterior portion that you 'screwed' in or out to vary the frequency...just a bit but it was literally our first VFO and a big deal, even though the frequency variation was small." You can see the Bliley VF1 on the website maintained by Bliley descendant, Charles K3NAU.

Operating Tip - When conditions are "funny" due to a solar hiccup or a geomagnetic disturbance, start looking for unusual propagation along skewed paths or for openings at unusual times. Paths at the customary times and bearings may be closed but when the ionosphere is busy, strange things have been known to happen!

More Technical Topics and Information

(ARRL Contest Update —March 14, 2012) Pink or White? No, we're not talking about your dinner wine selection, we're talking about noise. What do all those different names for noise mean? Find out in this Electronic Design article (<http://electronicdesign.com/article/analog-and-mixed-signal/understanding-noise-terms-in-electronic-circuits>) that summarizes the terminology - pass the popcorn noise, please!

- The documentation on K2AV's Folded Counterpoise Antenna (FCA) contains a lot of good information. (<http://www.w0uce.net/K2AVantennas.html>) Take a look around the W0UCE web site for more!

- Pres N6SS reports how he discourages nibbling of his "Beverage On Ground (BOG)" wires by the local rodentia: "BOGs here are made from #14 stranded insulated house wire...before rolling (them) out at the start of each low band season the reel is submerged for a week in a tub of diesel fuel mixed with a bag of chili powder. This procedure renders the wire far less tasty to Arizona critters. In 15 years not a single 'chew thru' has occurred."

- Jim W6RMK reports that the IEEE/ANSI RF safety standard, C95.1-2005, can now be downloaded for free now (<http://standards.ieee.org/findstds/standard/C95.1-2005.html>). OET Bulletin 65 is the usual amateur reference and

a good summary but you can also download the actual standard now.

- Everybody has encountered the dreaded Philips-head slots worn down to the point where a screwdriver can't grip enough to turn the screw. This Apartment Therapy article has a good idea - use a rubber band! (<http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/how-to-remove-a-stripped-screw-1-107582>)

- Scope probes are explored in the article "Probing Pointers" by Jack Ganssle N3ALO in the March 2012 issue of Embedded System Design.

- Here's a great antenna and tower tip from a veteran of many skyhook projects - "Always drill U-bolt holes two drill sizes

(that's two-64ths) bigger than the actual size of the U-bolt. Got a 3/8"-stock U-bolt? Make the holes 13/32-inch. Be happy up there." (Thanks, Glenn K6NA)

• The Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) has published a video of program author Dean N6BV giving tips on using his HFTA terrain analysis program. < <http://nccc.cc/misc/HFTA.wmv>> (Thanks, Jim K9YC) (*HFTA is among the software included on the ARRL Antenna Book CD-ROM - Ed*).

Technical Web Site of the Week - Al AB2ZY reports success in using Scheme-

It, a new web-based schematic capture tool hosted by Digi-Key. (http://electronicsdesign.com/article/eda/Still-Drawing-Circuits-On-A-Napkin-Consider-Using-Scheme-it-A-Web-Based-Schematic-Capture-Tool-Instead.aspx?cid=ed_newsletter&NL=1&YM_RID=akozak@fortitech.com) The tool also compiles a Bill of Materials (BOM) and the results are shareable across the web. As the article points out, this will probably save a few napkins and tablecloths - since the service can be accessed by a web browser wherever you are, including a restaurant or coffeehouse!

Operating Tip - A reminder - asking to be spotted is considered "self-spotting" and is specifically not allowed in nearly all contests.

Checklog - if you realize you've operated in some way that makes you ineligible to participate in the contest, submit your log as a checklog. That's an option in the Cabrillo format - place the line CATEGORY-OPERATOR: CHECKLOG in the log file's header section. That way, your contacts can still be used for log checking and the sponsors appreciate that.

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" Heliax 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@rogerhalstead.com)

MARC Vital Statistics

K8RI

Memberships Expiring in March

N8JBW

K8VB

Memberships Expiring in April

None

Memberships Expiring in May

KD8QAM

Current Active Club Membership 49

Birthdays Celebrated in March/April

KB8VSU 3/9
NQ8T 3/15
KC8RTU 3/16
KC8RTW 3/17
K8VB 3/19
KC8FDM 3/26
WD8OEU 3/27

W8QN 3/31
KC8TQS 4/9
KC8SRT 4/11
KD8CUX 4/17
N8KFE 4/18
W8AWS 4/19
KC8IHB 4/19

KD8OLC 4/20
WA8LQD 4/27
KD8HIC 4/27
KD8MQX 4/28
KA8Ezt 4/28
W8CVZ 4/28
N8JBW 4/30

Anniversaries Celebrated in March/April

K8RRB and ??? 3/4
KC8ITI and KC8MUD 3/6
WD8BPT and Melody 3/13
WD8OEU and Grace 04/17

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