



W8KEA



MARCA

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

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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 — Thursday September 6, 2012, 6:00 PM

Next CLUB Meeting — Thursday September 6, 2012, 7:30 PM

Salvation Army Building 330 Waldo Rd.

Talk-in 147.000+

September 2012

Static Discharge

Kevin Martin, KD8QAM

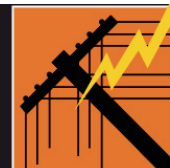
The fall weather is quickly approaching, and the weather is getting gloomy. I hope that everyone has had a chance to get their summer projects wrapped up. It seems there are always things to do. I have a few more projects to get finished before the snow flies. I am having trouble with my favorite HT, the Yaesu VX-8dr. I had it set up for APRS, and now the menus are giving me trouble. I had switched to use my back up VX-7, and dropped it. It is now having trouble making the repeater.

I would like to get a 2 meter antenna set next to the house before winter. I have had a lot of yard work get in the way of getting a dipole set in the trees along the house.

Just as a reminder, we will be holding elections at this month's meeting. If you are interested in running for a position or think someone would do well in a certain position, please enter a name for that position. I would like to encourage everyone to run for something.

73, Kevin KD8QAM

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



## MARC Minutes

Linda Hodges, KC8MUD

The meeting was brought to order by KD8QAM at 7:40 p.m. with 25 in attendance. A sign-in sheet was passed around and introductions were made. Please bring any corrections or additions to the minutes to the attention of the secretary.

• Treasurer's Report—John W8QN—Tonight's report included a Swap sum-

### 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)

mary. Thank you to all those who have renewed their membership.

• EC/RO Report— On the first Saturday in October, John is looking for operators to work with packet from their home or a station. A receiver test is being done in September. More info at the next meeting. Kevin KD8QAM reminds us that our club's NET preamble can be found on the club's website.

• Lupton —John WB8RCR—Was fun as always. Activities included camping, a fox hunt and several presentations. Dale Williams from the ARRL was also there.

• MARC Picnic— Linda KC8MUD—The date is September 15th at the Homer Township Park on South Homer Road. Please bring a dish to pass and table service. The fires will be hot if you wish grill out.

• Santa Parade—Dorie N8WTQ—Dorie reminded us of the Santa Parade coming up. A good opportunity to show off our club. If anybody would like to help put together a float and or walk in the parade please contact Dorie.

• Open House—John WB8RCR—The National Weather Service at White Lake has an open house coming up on August 29th.

• Silent key—Pat KC8RTW—Walt Maxwell W2DU has passed away. A ham since 1933 he taught us all about SWR.

• Elections—Please don't forget the Club officer elections at the next meeting. If you would like to be an elected official of the club don't be shy about letting people know.

• Isabella County—Dennis N8ERF—Due to the interested created by the use of Amateur radio during the search for a young boy in Isabella County several weeks ago, a class was started by Lee KC8ITI and Dennis N8ERF. There are 10 people taking the

class at this time and there has been some interest in starting an Isabella County Radio Club. Also there is a VE session on Aug. 8th at Dennis' N8ERF house.

• Christmas Party—Dorie N8WTQ—Dorie made a motion to have a Christmas party December 7th—Passed.

• Swaps— Denny WD8BPT—A military/field day equipment type swap will be held in Clare this weekend. Also, Lee KC8ITI and Gordy WA8KJR reported on the Lansing Swap. Larry N8CGP mentioned an Antique radio swap.

• Weather watch— Del W8FYR—Short discussion about weather watch radios.

• QSO parties—K0ACP—Art—A discussion about QSO parties or contesting parties was held.

• Card checking—Pat KC8RTW—Pat talked about changes in policy for card checking.

• Morse code practice— Jack NX8A— Is there any interest in Morse code practice and if so what frequency and what band should it be on?

• Santa Parade — Katrina says please remember all proceeds from the Santa Parade do go to the Salvation Army.

Katrina would also ask if there is anybody who would like to explain Amateur Radio or any other interesting topic to kids in the after school program at the Salvation Army building.

NET Control:

Aug 9th John W8QN

Aug 16th Kevin KD8QAM

Aug 23rd John NX8A

Aug 30th John W8QN

An Adjournment motion was made by Lee KC8ITI and seconded by Dorie N8WTQ.

The meeting ended at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda KC8MUD

MARC Secretary

## My Two Cents

While not as active on the air as I would have liked to be this month, I still managed to keep my hand in.

Earlier this month I took receipt of an LDG IT-100 autotuner, the entry-level tuner made to match up with Icom transceivers, in my case, an Icom IC-718. Set

## Pat Mullet, KC8RTW

up is incredibly simple: take it out of the box, make the coax connections to antenna and transmitter, and plug the combination power/command cable between the rig and the tuner. Simple. A quick trip to the setup menu of the radio to enable the AH-4 tuner command set, and

you're ready to rock. Push the "tuner" button on the front of the rig, and the tuner commands the radio to transmit a low-power signal, analyzes the SWR and the relays begin clicking in search of a match. Ten to twenty seconds later, you're back to the original mode and ready to transmit! Nice.

I've only two criticisms of the tuner—the relays are noisier than I had thought they'd be, and since I'm watching the SWR on the rig's meter, I don't have any indication of output power. Luckily, I have a cross-needle power meter I can plug into the system, which will solve that problem quite nicely.

I had a chance to use the tuner during the last two weeks of July, as I tried to utilize the grey-line to work the 2012 Olympics Special Event Station in London. I searched around the published frequencies several times, hitting paydirt on couple different nights—instant pile-up. Literally every paper-chasing Ham in the world was trying to contact this station. Even when 2012L seemed to be working the US exclusively, my 100 watts pumped into the compromise antenna that is the G5RV just wasn't able to break through the logjam, no matter how long I worked the pile-up.

Running up the spectrum, I've been playing with my APRS station a bit. Changing the filters, I was able to tap into the datastream and pick up the icons for the wildfires out west, as well as a number of low-level earthquakes across the country.

Even though the footprint of my APRS station is rather small due to the low height of the antenna, band conditions on 2 meters lately have been good enough that I've been gating a lot of traffic from the Midland digi to the APRS internet backbone. I've been happy to see that some of my RF traffic passed along by the Midland digi, as well. The down side of this is that because I'm running high power on the APRS rig to achieve this, I'm getting some de-sensing of my voice rig when the packets are sent—I guess I'll need to re-think some antenna locations to mitigate this. Of course, getting a couple of fill-in digis between here and Midland would alleviate the problem, as well.

If you're interested in playing around with APRS without sinking any money into it, you can check out the action online by going to [aprs.fi](http://aprs.fi).

That pretty much does it for this month. Hope to hear you on the air.

73, Pat, KC8RTW

## **ARES®/RACES John Wolters, W8QN**

The annual SET (Simulated Emergency Test) is normally scheduled for the first weekend in October. Not knowing what is planned for either District 3 or the State of Michigan, I would like to do a test with packet radio. This will be the discussion point for the September meeting. I would like to see operators at the County Services Meeting, 911 Center, Emergency Services Building, and anywhere else they choose to operate. Hope to see you at the September meeting.

### **Midland Public Service Net**

The Midland Public Service Net occurs every Thursday at 9 pm on the 147.00 repeater with the exception of the 1st Thursday of the month. The purpose is to share information of interest with other amateurs and practice net procedures. Net Control operators are chosen from volun-

teers at the regular monthly club meeting. No prior experience is required. First off, thanks to all those who have volunteered to date. The problem is that lately there has been a lack of volunteers. If we look at the year there are 52 Thursdays. If you exclude 12 for monthly meetings and 12 more because I normally take one session each month as EC, you are left with 28. That's less than the total number of members in the ARES/Races group and a lot less than the total club membership. If each person was to take one Thursday a year we would have this covered. Help support your club. Look for more discussion and twisting of arms if necessary.

### **Repeater Remote Receivers**

If you have made the latest club meeting you are aware that there is now a second remote receiver in service located

### **Upcoming Events**

9/15 MARC Picnic

### **Michigan Hamfests**

8/19 Lapeer  
8/25 Owosso  
9/8 Wyoming  
9/16 Adrian  
10/6 Petoskey  
10/7 Madison Heights  
10/13 Muskegon  
10/21 Kalamazoo  
12/2 Harrison Township  
2/17 Livonia

\* Denotes 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  
Mi VHF Trffc Net; MWF, 145.15 MHz, 0900 ET  
TMMTN; Mon-Sat, 147.30 MHz, 2130 ET  
MACS; Sun-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  
MiDTN - 1900 local Tu, Th, Sat 3.583  
+waterfall, Oivia 8/500

### **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.

# *Amateur Radio is a Contact Sport!*



on top of the Edenville water tower. The id for this receiver is W8KEA/2. While both the West Midland and Edenville remotes are active, they have not been optimized. We still need to do some work on the West Midland receiver to lessen its hangtime and tweak the voter to make

sure it's working correctly. To that end we hope to use a weekend in September to get mobile vehicles in the field to test how well or how poorly things are working and how good/bad the coverage is. Again – look for more discussion at the September meeting. If you have any

questions or comments about this please do not hesitate to ship me an e-mail. W8qn@arrl.net.

John Wolters, W8QN  
Midland County EC/RO

## **MARC Fall 2012 Picnic**

Mark your calendar on September 15<sup>th</sup> as the date for the MARC fall picnic. Bring a dish to pass, your own table service, drinks and anything you would like

to grill. Charcoal grills will be fired up for your use. The location is the Homer Township Park on South Homer Rd. Plan on meeting around 11 AM for an after-

noon of fellowship.

Linda – KC8MUD

## **Wanted: Printed Club Newsletters After 2000**

I am looking to put together a collection of paper copies of the W8KEA newsletters from 2001 to the present. I can print them off from Lee's electronic collection but if anyone has been saving

the paper copies, it could save me some paper and ink. Please let me know if you have any printed copies you would like to donate to the effort.

Best Regards,  
Dennis, N8ERF  
989-636-7704

## **PRB-1 Update**

## **Larry Camp, WB8R, MI Section Manager**

In last month's Section News, I did not make mention of PRB-1 progress because there were a great many things in the works, but none of them were concrete enough to report on without it being considered speculation. Well, things have changed since then and I have some substantive things to report this month. We felt that our House Bill would real-

istically never get out of committee, so we have refocused our efforts on the Michigan Senate.

Michigan Senator Jones (24<sup>th</sup> District) is going to introduce our PRB-1 in the Senate, and if all goes well, that will happen on or close to August 16. Senator Caswell (16<sup>th</sup> District) has signed on as a co-sponsor of our bill.

Once we have the bill number assigned and the bill is assigned to a committee, the time will be right for writing letters to our senators asking them to co-sponsor the bill and support our bill. We have the form letter ready and will make it available to all Michigan hams when the time is right. Please wait until we advise you to send the letters and make the phone calls.

## **2012 Michigan QSO Party Results**

## **Dave Pruett, K8CC**

*The following was shamelessly stolen from the Mad River Radio Club's Michigan QSO Party Results page at [http://www.miqp.org/2012/MiQP\\_2012.htm](http://www.miqp.org/2012/MiQP_2012.htm) and edited for our newsletter.*

(www.miqp.org-Aug. 11, 2012) 2012 was the fourteenth running of the Michigan QSO Party since the contest was revised and streamlined in 1999, and the 2012 event had a "comfortable" feel to it. Conditions continued better compared to what the entrants had to slog through as recently as a few years ago. While the 2012 MiQP saw a small drop in log entries (279 entries vs. 289 last year) and reported QSOs dropped from last year's record high (38,394 vs. 45,562 in 2011) but with a small uptick in the number of unique

callsigns appearing in those logs (3,346, vs. 3,316 last year) which was the third highest in the history of the MiQP.

Once again, we have to report that only 82 of the 83 MI counties were active during the contest, with the missing county being Keweenaw. Your author operated from Keweenaw as part of an upper peninsula mobile trip in 2001 and can attest that there is not much up there, so this county relies on mobile stations for activation. The five most active counties were Oakland, Berrien, Macomb, St. Clair and Ingham. The big difference from 2011 is that St. Clair replaced Wayne in the top five; the top two repeat from last year. The five least active counties were Cass, St. Joseph, Alcona, Shiawasee,

and of course Keweenaw. None of these were repeats from last year. As in most years, none of these hard-to-find counties had fixed station operations this year, relying on transient mobile stations for their activity. Again, a strategic hint for 2013...

From the out-of-state areas, QSOs were reported with 53 of the 63 geographic entities on CW, 60 of 63 on SSB and 60 of 63 overall. Its remarkable that these numbers are identical to the last two years, except that CW was down a little. The five most active out-of-state areas were Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and California. Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania are repeats for the third year in a row, while Illinois and California bumped Minnesota (6<sup>th</sup>) and DX (8<sup>th</sup>) from

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last year's top-five. No QSOs were reported with three entities: Nunavut, Yukon Territories and Northwest Territories. All of these are typically difficult to get in MiQP, although the latter was workable last year.

### County Activity

50 counties were represented by fixed station operations, down slightly from 54 in 2011. Our goal is to have fixed station entries on the air from all 83 counties. Overall, MiQP entries worked an average of 32.1 counties in 2012 vs. 35.7 in 2011 and 31.4 in 2010. Michigan stations on average worked 36.3 counties in 2012, down from 40.8 in 2011. The number of counties worked by non-Michigan stations also slipped slightly: from 30.9 in 2011 to 28.9 in 2012. No Michigan counties saw first-ever recorded fixed station entries in 2011 which so two Michigan counties remain which have never had a fixed station MiQP entry reported: Ontonagon and Schoolcraft.

### Michigan Multi Transmitter

Call	Cty	QSOs	Mults	Score	Club
K8XXX	BARR	2450	233	741,406	
N8LC	HURO	642	186	173,724	L'Anse Creuse ARC
W8QN	MIDL	705	169	145,340	Midland ARC

Once again, the winner of this year's multi-multi category was the perennial multi-multi juggernaut K8XXX, operating ten transmitters from the N8CC QTH in Barry county. This group had band breakdowns of 453/919/690/319/69, with a big percentage (70%) on phone. Not surprisingly for a multi-multi, K8XXX had the highest overall

multiplier of the contest and set the record for the most mults ever worked in MiQP with 233. Their best hour for rate was 01Z, with 280 QSOs going into the log from all their stations. Even their worst hour (the last) still provided 162 QSOs. The group ran high power, and operated the entire contest period, putting 130 unique multiplier entities along with 73 different Michigan counties into their log.

The second place multi-multi team was a portable operation - N8LC from the L'Anse Creuse Radio Club, again operating from Huron county. Compared to their 2011 effort, this team made more QSOs, worked more multipliers, and scored 8K more points; their best score so far. Their band breakdowns were 168/438/34/2, with 55% on phone. N8LC ran high power with five operators and operated the full contest period, putting 116 unique multiplier entities and 72 different Michigan counties into their log.

In third place was another group stepping up their multi-multi game, and that's W8QN from Midland county. They pulled together a team of ten operators to run four rigs and beat their 2011 score by 38%! Their band breakdowns were 203/471/22/9 with 78% on SSB. Their best hour of the contest was 02Z, with 132 QSOs between the four rigs. This group ran high power and operated essentially the entire contest period, putting 110 unique multiplier entities and 65 different Michigan counties into their log. The top MiQP Rookie Single-Op is not an MiQP cat-

egory, but rather is an award intended to recognize Michigan single-op entries who are participating in MiQP for their first time. This award was initiated in 2007 through the generous sponsorship of Steve Murphy, N8NM. This year, we had a good field of rookies with three stations participating.

### MiQP Rookie Single-Op

Call	Cty	QSOs	Mults	Score	Club
WA8Y	MIDL	534	129	77,400	
K8BTT	WASH	451	102	46,002	
WD8CRQ	AREN	261	75	19,650	Ogemaw-Arenac ARS

For 2012, the top MiQP Rookie Single-Op was Steve Linley, WA8Y operating from Midland county, with Colin, K8BTT operating from Washtenaw county finishing second. Armin, WD8CRQ from Arenac county was third. Comparing their three entries is an interesting study in contrasts. WA8Y and K8BTT ran high power, while WD8CRQ ran low power. WA8Y made 12% of his QSOs and 26% of his multipliers on CW, while K8BTT didn't work any CW and WD8CRQ made one solitary CW QSO. All three stations made most of their QSOs on 40M phone, and while WA8Y worked all three of the lower MiQP bands, K8BTT skipped 80M and WD8CRQ skipped 20M. In terms of operating time and counties worked all three were remarkably similar; WA8Y worked 47 different Michigan counties in 8:53 of operating time, K8BTT worked 52 counties in 8:22 and WD8CRQ worked 51 counties in only 8:53 operating time.

## FCC Denies Arizona Ham's Petition to Extend PRB-1 to Private Contracts, CC&Rs

(ARRLWeb—07/17/2012) In January 2012, Leonard Umina, W7CCE, of Gilbert, Arizona, filed a Petition for Rulemaking, asking the FCC to “expand its policy of limited preemption of state and local regulations governing amateur station facilities to preempt private land use regulations such as covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) and rental agreements that limit amateur licensees’ ability to deploy antennas.” On July 16, the FCC notified Umina that it had denied his Petition.

In its denial, the FCC told Umina that it had already answered the question of whether to preempt CC&Rs in deeds

and bylaws that restrict the installation of antennas and associated support structures used by Amateur Radio stations back in 1985 with PRB-1. PRB-1—as codified in Section 97.15(b)—states that “[s]tate and local regulation of a station antenna structure must not preclude amateur service communications. Rather, it must reasonably accommodate such communications and must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the state or local authority's legitimate purpose.”

With PRB-1, the FCC “established a policy of limited preemption of state and local regulations governing amateur sta-

tion facilities, including antennas and support structures, but expressly decided not to extend its limited preemption policy to CC&Rs in home ownership deeds and condominium bylaws because “[s]uch agreements are voluntarily entered into by the buyer or tenant when the agreement is executed and do not usually concern the Commission.” In 2001, the Commission denied a Petition requesting that the Commission adopt rules to preempt CC&Rs that do not provide reasonable accommodation for Amateur Radio operators, and affirmed that the limited preemption policy of PRB-1 applies only to state and local

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

regulations. The Commission noted that its decision in PRB-1 to exclude CC&Rs from its preemption policy was premised upon the fundamental difference between state and local regulations, with which an Amateur Radio operator must comply, and CC&Rs, which are contractual terms to which the purchaser of a property voluntarily subjects him- or herself." The FCC also concluded in its PRB-1 decision that "there ha[d] not been a sufficient showing that CC&Rs prevent Amateur Radio operators from pursuing the basis and purpose of the Amateur Service."

It also pointed out that "should Congress see fit to enact a statutory directive mandating the expansion of its limited

preemption policy to include more than state and local regulations, it would expeditiously act to fulfill its obligation thereunder." The FCC noted that less than a month after Umina filed his Petition for Rulemaking, Congress enacted the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, requiring the FCC to report to Congress regarding the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

This report will "identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications and recommendations regarding the removal of such impediments, including 'the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary

private land use restrictions on residential antenna installations.' Had Congress intended to mandate an expansion of the Commission's policy at this time, it would have done so directly. We believe that it would be inappropriate and premature for the Commission to consider modifying its policy until after Congress has an opportunity to review the report and decide whether to enact a statutory directive mandating the expansion of the Commission's limited preemption policy to include more than state and local regulations. We therefore deny the petition."

## Technical Topics and Information

(ARRL Contest Update—August 1, 2012) With several generations of Rohn tower sections "in play" across the land, there are reports of difficulties in getting them to fit together. Rich KL7RA devised a handy gauge of copper pipe to help with alignment chores. "I soldered two 90-degree 3/4-inch elbows to a pipe. It measured a perfect fit for the top legs of Rohn 25 as a quick check. If my leg gauge didn't fit I would put that section aside and [used] a big pipe to bend the leg in or out. The 3/4-inch pipe matches the OD of the top legs very closely to indicate misalignment and fits inside the bottom of the legs."

- Pat N9RV weighs in with some advice for Rohn 25 tower builders, as well. "File off the galvanizing [slag] first. There are at least two problems to tower fit - legs out of round and legs not true (slightly bent). Mate pairs of sections and mark them. Correct for legs out of round (oval) by pounding simultaneously with sledges on the wide parts until they are sufficiently close to circular (both sections). Correct for legs out of true by spreading or compressing using something that is stiff and can give you leverage (such as a [length] of pipe)."

- Locknuts or lockwashers? Grant KZ1W writes that "Engineering tests show that double nuts properly tightened are superior to lock washers and the Nylock nut is somewhat better as the second nut. Even if the nylon insert degrades (there are non-nylon inserts as well) the double nut friction still is better

than a lockwasher. There are other choices as well to insure the fastener stays tight. Perhaps the easiest and most reliable is Loctite. The medium strength grade (blue 242) can be disassembled with hand tools (no heat required). However, the bolt surface should be clean so use the Loctite to prevent SS galling."

- Assembling our favorite connector (the PL-259) is a never-ending source of suggestions and favorite procedures. Here's a good process for PL-259's with the RG-58/59/8X adapters by K6MHE from W5FC's website that has the benefit of allowing you to see what the finished solder job looks like <[www.w5fc.org/files/how-to/PL259.PDF](http://www.w5fc.org/files/how-to/PL259.PDF)>.

(Thanks, Paul W9AC)

- But will they make a Smart Toolbag for tower work? This Gadget Freak Case #221 presents "Smart Toolbox Finds the Right Tool". <[www.designnews.com/author.asp?section\\_id=1362&doc\\_id=247463&dfpPParams=htid\\_66,bid\\_30,aid\\_247463&dfpLayout=blog](http://www.designnews.com/author.asp?section_id=1362&doc_id=247463&dfpPParams=htid_66,bid_30,aid_247463&dfpLayout=blog)>

- A free online EDN course covers the fundamentals of off-grid, stand-alone photovoltaic (PV) systems, with a good overview of the technologies, topologies and electronics that make up such systems. An earlier course--Fundamentals of Solar: Grid Connected--focused on PV systems connected to the power grid; if you're considering connecting your system to the grid at any point, please check out that course, too. <[engineers/education-training/courses/4218470/Fundamentals-of-Solar--Off-Grid?cid=Newsletter+-+EDN+on+Analog>](http://www.edn.com/electrical-</a></li></ul></div><div data-bbox=)

- Aggregate concrete finishes can look more attractive than plain concrete surfaces. Scott W5WZ explains the difference: "Aggregate concrete (in our market more commonly called "washed concrete") is simply regular concrete that is finished differently. Instead of using trowels to get the smooth surface, at that point in the curing process, the upper layer of cement is washed away with water to expose the aggregate which is contained in the ready-mix. This principle works well on mixes of strength between 2500 & 4500 PSI, albeit the stronger mixes require more precise timing of the washing operation." He notes that your local ready-mix plant will help you get the look and strength you need.

### OPERATING TIP

Retired USCG Radioman, Chris K4HC relays that "the proper meanings of the Procedural Words Roger and Wilco are:

Roger - Message received and understood

Wilco - Message received and understood, and I will comply.

Therefore, saying "Roger Wilco" is akin to saying "73's". The two are NEVER used together. Hollywood got it wrong on this one."



## More Technical Topics and Information

(The ARRL Contest Update—August 15, 2012) The SB-1000 linear amplifier is a good candidate for conversion to 6 meters as described by Bill W6WRT. "I used the technique of stepping down the plate impedance with a small inductor so I could use the original tune and load capacitors. (I also) homebrewed a new tank coil, plate choke and filament choke and installed a pi-net impedance matching circuit in the input." Pictures of the converted amplifier are available online at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/w6wrt>

- The *Instructables* website and weekly project compendium just keep on producing a lot of fun projects from silly to sublime. Here are my favorites over the past month or so:

- *Metal Bending Tool* <<http://www.instructables.com/id/Inexpensive-Soft-Metal-Bend->

[ing-Tool/](#)>

- *Dry Film Solder Mask for Homebrew PC Boards* <<http://www.instructables.com/id/Dry-Film-Solder-Mask/>>

- *Bending Copper Pipe* (good for making high-Q coils) <<http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Bend-Copper-Pipe-and-Tubing-without-Crushin/>>

- *Understanding Motor and Gearbox Design* <<http://www.instructables.com/id/Understanding-Motor-and-Gearbox-Design/>>

- Have you ever wondered just which satellite it is that you sighted sliding along the stars overhead on a dark night? Surprise, surprise - there's an app for that! *WhatSat - Satellite Explorer* helps you identify and learn about satellites that you see passing overhead in the night sky. It can also be used as a satellite spotting aid. The satellite catalog includes 150 or so of the brightest orbiting

objects as identified by NORAD. For each satellite listed there is a description and an image (when available). You can tell which satellites are currently visible or when a specific satellite will be visible. Search for visible ISS passes and impress your friends! WhatSat requires cell service or WiFi to access the server that does satellite flyby calculations. (From AMSAT Bulletin ANS-225)

- Bill KB8WYP describes a useful tool, "I use a wire pulling tool called a "creep-zit" to pull radials under fallen trees and logs in the woods. I basically just take one a 6-foot long fiberglass rods (a little over 1/8" diameter), tape the radial to one end, and then I can push it under fallen debris easily. With a little practice you can even get around hidden obstructions in the ground this way.

### MARC Vital Statistics

#### Memberships Expiring in August

KD8IVZ  
KD8IWB

#### Memberships Expiring in September

KD8HIH  
WA8LQD

#### Memberships Expiring in October

K0ACP  
KC8GRQ  
N8FUZ

W8LSS  
WD8AXR  
WB8YAG

Current Active Club Membership 52

#### Birthdays Celebrated in August/September

N8XD 8/1  
KB8QWO 8/3  
KB8QYB 8/9  
N8LBF 8/17  
WD8BPT 8/18  
W8JB 8/23  
KD8MRB 8/24

WB8FYR 8/24  
KD8IWB 8/27  
N8DHF 8/29  
KD8EUR 8/31  
KC8ZMQ 9/6  
N8STF 9/9  
N8FUZ 9/17

KB8PGV 9/17  
KB8SOE 9/19  
KB8WEE 9/24  
KC8GRQ 9/27

#### Anniversaries Celebrated in August/September

WB8FYR and WD8ODG 8/13  
KA0KPP and Gail 08/19  
W8JB and NT8Y 08/21  
N8LBF and KB8QYC 9/6

W8JBD and ??? 09/10  
KC0CJC and Sally 9/12  
K8RI and N8JBW 9/26

Information is from data received 8/13/2012  
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**