



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	Mark Rodgers, KC8GRQ/Ch	(517) 672-1060
	Pat Mullet KC8RTW	(989) 828-6657

LIFE MEMBERS

Larry K8SQB (SK), Don W8WOJ, Lee KC8ITI, Dennis N8ERF, Larry N8CGP, Denny WD8BPT

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 May 2, 2013, 6:00 PM

Next CLUB Meeting — Thursday May 2, 2013, 7:30 PM

Salvation Army Building 330 Waldo Rd.

Talk-in 147.000+

May 2013

Static Discharge

Kevin Martin, KD8QAM

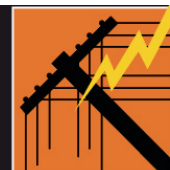
Spring is in full swing. The birds are singing and the bugs are out, and the weather is temperamental to say the least. If you are interested or need Skywarn® training there are a few more classes being offered in the area, according the National Weather Service website.

The MHSARC curriculum and class meetings are going very well. The group was just invited to the University of Michigan's club for a tour.

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer this summer with amateur radio. If you have the time please give, it an extra thought. There's always room for more.

Kevin KD8QAM

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



MARC Minutes

Dorie French, N8WTQ

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. with 29 members and guests present.

- There was no treasurer's or EC/RO report. The minutes for the March meeting were posted in the Newsletter.

- The MS Walk is scheduled for April 27th from 8:30 to noon and volunteers are needed. See KB8UIH.

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>

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)

- May 19th is the Great Lakes Marathon. Volunteers are needed for the stops, which are every two miles. The event starts and ends at Dow Diamond. See KB8UIH.

- May 18th is the Dow Run. Volunteers are needed. It starts and ends by the Community Center. See W8QN.

- N8ERF gave an update on the MHSARC. They are working on the curriculum for 9-12 grade students. Two already have their licenses. We need to keep them interested—they want a challenge. Many organizations have been sent requests for grants. They are looking at computer clubs and robotics clubs for interest also.

- VE exams are scheduled for May 11th with registration at 8:30 and tests at 9 a.m. At the last exam KD8UU received his license. The Tech class will be finished in time for the testing.

- April 20th is the Michigan QSO party. No one is coordinating for Midland.

- May 4th is the Cadillac Swap if anyone is interested.

- An APRS Digi for Coleman was discussed. An antenna and coax are already there. We may have a radio there also.

- FYI the FCC has a proposal (13-84) in the works to change the RF safety standards.

Net Control:

April 11	?
April 18	KC8GRQ
April 25	KC8RTW

A motion to adjourn was made by N8CGP and seconded by KC8RTW. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorie, N8WTQ
Secretary

My Two Cents

Pat Mullet, KC8RTW

I've been having fun this past month. I've been trying to make at least a couple of contacts each night, which has netted me five new countries and a number of counties. I spent some time last week rag-chewing with a 12 year-old extra in Oklahoma, which proved to be a nice change of pace from the quick exchange of signal reports you often get when working DX. Of course, that is if you can work the DX. Every night there seems to be at least one or two pile-ups trying to work a station I'm trying to work. It's not easy for my 100 watts into a G5RV to compete with a 1500-watt amp driving a multi-element "wonder-beam." Of course, if you do manage to sneak your call past one of the big guns, it makes working the DX all the sweeter.

This last weekend, I just couldn't bring myself to work the various QSO parties, so I scanned 20 meters for a while and ran across some activity on the SSTV call frequency. I booted up MMSSTV, a freeware slow scan program and watched a few pictures slowly build up. Then I wandered over to 18 meters—no contesting there—and spent

some time rag-chewing again. All of which proves that there's plenty of activity on-air for everyone, no matter what your interest.

I also spent some time melting solder, as I had some cables to make up—I came across a deal on a desk mike on eBay, and needed a cable for that, as well as a few other projects. Once I had the mike up and running, I spent some time pouring through the manual for my rig, learning how to tweak it for the best audio at maximum power-out.

The rest of the time was spent on paperwork. Not only did I have to get the newsletter out, but I had to make a start on PR for Field Day—press releases, proclamation requests and making reservations for an ARRL sponsored PR webinar.

There's always some aspect of our hobby available to occupy your time, so I urge you to get out there and sample some of them. You may not like all of them, but there's going to be something out there that will catch your interest. Give it a shot; I'm sure you'll have fun.

73, Pat, KC8RTW

Amateur Radio is a Contact Sport!

ARES®/RACES John Wolters, W8QN

There is still some confusion on the use of the Salvation Army Building before 7:30 pm, so as of this writing it is unknown where and if an ARES®/RACES

Meeting will be held. Look for an e-mail message with more detail.

John Wolters - W8QN

Dow Run Volunteers Needed

The Dow Run occurs on Saturday May 18th. I will be contacting each of you to solicit your support and participation. The commitment is from approximately 7:15 am on Saturday until Noon. All that is needed is your willingness to work

and a VHF radio if you have one. If not please let me know. There are a limited number of club radios available for activity use.

John Wolters - W8QN

Michigan QSO Party!

If you participate in the Michigan QSO Party on Saturday April 20th and submit a log, be sure to include a note that you are a member of the Midland Amateur

Radio Club so that your score can be credited and added to the Club Score.

John Wolters

Upcoming District 3 Public Service Activities

Here are other public service activities that are going on in District 3. Contact me if you have questions.

Your participation is appreciated.

ALCONA COUNTY

May 11 - Clean up Event Fair Grounds
7:30 AM to 2:00 PM
Two Shifts—Need 6 operators

Last weekend in July - Canoe Races will need 2 or 3 operators

GENESEE COUNTY

July ?? - Atwood Races
Aug. 24 - Crim Races

IOSCO COUNTY

Last Full Weekend in July - AuSable River Canoe Marathon

LAPEER COUNTY

June 8 - Big Fish Triathlon
July 14 - Otter Lake Triathlon

OSCODA COUNTY

Last weekend in June - Nor'easter Festival
7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM All operators that are willing to work

SAGINAW COUNTY

May 11 - MS Walk at 8:30 AM
May 19 - Run for Windy 8:00 AM

Volunteers Needed for MS Walk

Hello all,
Please consider putting Saturday April 27, 2013 on your Public Service Calendar. The event will be at the same Bat-place, at the same Bat-time, and we will once again be serving a worthy cause. This is a low-impact event and a great opportunity to get your feet wet in public service operations and to get used to

working on a directed net.

The specific details are:

DATE: Saturday, April 27, 2013

TIME: 8:45-Noonish

PLACE: Central Middle School on Rodd Street between East Reardon and East Collins Streets. Coordinates according to Google Maps are N43.619068, W-84.234070.

Upcoming Events

4/20	Mi QSO Party
4/27	MS Walk
5/18	Dow Run
5/19	GLB Marathon
6/22-23	Field Day
7/11-14	Lupton

Michigan Hamfests

4/20	Milford
5/4	Cadillac
6/1	Hudsonville
6/2	Chelsea
6/8	Newberry
6/15	Midland*
6/16	Monroe
7/27	Lansing
8/3	Escanaba
9/7	Wyoming
9/15	Adrian
9/21	Utica
10/5	Petoskey

* Denotes date based on 2012 event

Area Nets

SVARA; Mn, 147.24 MHz, 2100 ET
Gladwin; Tu, 147.18 MHz, 2000 ET
BAARC; Tu, 145.31 MHz, 2100 ET
Isabella Co EOC 146.72 Mhz, 1900 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.

When you get to the school, please check in and sign-in with the MS official(s). Let them know you are there and then check in with me on site.

Barring a conflict in scheduling, the SATERN Communications vehicle is set to be the Net Control Location, and we will be using the Midland 147.000MHz

repeater for the net.

I appreciate all the help I have received at past events. If you would advise me as soon as possible as to your ability to help this year, I would appreciate it very much. It will alleviate the anxiety that I always get when I do this event. Some have already advised

that they cannot help this year. This allows me to plan accordingly. Thanks again for your consideration to assist with this event.

Thank you very much in advance,
Chris, KB8UIH
Phone 989-832-7179

Volunteers Needed for GLBR Marathon

Hard on the heels of the Dow Run on Saturday, May 18th is the Great Lakes Bay Marathon for May 19th. Last year's route went through three counties, but this year it is predominately in Midland County. Area hams will be providing communications support for the event—Yeah, I know its Dayton weekend. Last year it drew prominent international runners, so this could be a chance for amateur radio to shine. Therefore, I am asking for support from whoever may be available to assist this event.

I want APRS trackers if possible.

Last year the Michigan State Police provided lead and tail vehicles for the two different runs, the full and half marathons. We attempted to put trackers in lead and tail of the larger run. We got one to work properly. From that experience, we know what did and didn't work. Depending on what is available this year, we will plan again to track the race in real time.

The Start/Stop line is at Dow Diamond in Midland; there is major urban renewal going on right across the street from the stadium—look out for it. The projected course is east then south of

Midland toward Bay County, then South toward Saginaw County, circling back to the West, then returning North and East to the stadium.

The time frame for the event is 6:30 AM through 2:00 PM, so any time is open for your involvement, for all day or half day.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in assisting with this event.

Chris, KB8UIH
home phone 989 832 7179
email kb8uih at charter dot net

March VE Session Results

The Midland Amateur Radio Club held a VE license examination session Saturday, March 23rd. We only had four VEs serving, due to missed connections and various illnesses. Those who proctored the exam were Lee, KC8ITI, Del, WB8FYR, Bob, W8LSS and Dennis, N8ERF, the Club's chief examiner.

We had 19 candidates appeared to take exams and while the VE team was swamped, it went amazingly well. We had one candidate who had requested a reader for his exam, a service provided by Jackie, N8NNA.

We had 9 new technicians, 4 Generals and 1 Extra. One of the Generals was Andrew Fawcett, the faculty advisor for the Midland High School Amateur Radio Club. He passed both the Tech and General today. Andy is a physics teacher at Midland High.

The successful candidates were: Jesse Staley, KD8ULI Tech; Gerald Haggart, KD8ULH, Tech; Joseph France, KD8ULG, Tech; Kin Haller, KD8ULJ, Tech; Alan Kontak, KC8EHU, General; Zach Purtill, KD8ULE, Tech (son of club member Doug Purtill,

KD8OLC); Ron Parmele, N8NGT, General; Bill Morin, KD8ULA, Tech (club member); Andrew Fawcett, KD8ULJ, General; James Curtis, KB8TBI, Extra; Daniel Clark, KD8ULD, Tech; Laurence LeCodet, KD8ULC, Tech; Gail Crachicola, KD8UJK, General and John Vudures, KD8ULB, Tech.

Congratulations to all the successful candidates, and thanks to all the volunteers who made the event possible.

Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF

Exam Session Scheduled for May 11

The Midland Amateur Radio Club will be conducting an Amateur Radio License Testing Session on Saturday, May 11th, 2013 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 will need 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.

The team will be administering tests for all classes of license —Technician,

General and Extra. 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@arrrl.net.

It's Not Your Grandfather's Amateur Radio!

Midland High School Amateur Radio Club News

First, I want to congratulate our Faculty Advisor, Andrew Fawcett, for passing both the Technician and General Class exam on March 23rd. His new call sign is KD8ULJ. Yay, Andy! Another science teacher at Midland High, Rebecca Stinson, has enthusiastically volunteered to be a second Faculty Advisor and participate in the club's activities. She has borrowed Andy's license manuals and is studying for her tests. Welcome aboard, Becky!

We continue to make good progress on the Midland High School Amateur Radio Club on three fronts—the fundraising campaign, the capital projects and the curriculum development. Our fundraising plan included both private sector and corporate sector donations. Our goal for the private sector donations was \$10,000. As of this writing, we are well on our way to achieving that goal. I want to thank all who have contributed and encourage the rest of you to do so. Five organizations have currently donated or pledged financial support for the project. There are still a number of grant proposals outstanding. I would like to thank the following organizations for their financial support of our project: \$5,000 from Dow Corning Donor Advised Endowment Fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation; \$3,000 from Midland Kiwanis Club; \$2,000 from Midland Amateur Radio Club; \$1,000 from Kiwassee Kiwanis Club and \$500 from United Steel Workers Local 12934.

The major focus of our capital pro-

jects is the installation of the tower, grounding system and cable installation. John, W8QN, and Denny, WD8BPT, are leading this effort. Tony Skarich, a local electrical engineer has agreed to help us with the design work for the electrical portion of the project including the grounding system and cable installation. This will be a big help. The major obstacle at this point seems to be finding someone who can dig a four-foot diameter hole, nine feet deep. Denny recently located an electrical contractor in Mt. Pleasant who has a 4' auger for doing just that very thing. On April 8th, Denny and I paid a visit to the contractor to ask them what they can do for us. We should know in a week or so. The challenge for them will not be digging the hole, but the fact that the grassy area where the tower will be is up about 4 feet above the surrounding ground level, and there is no ramp up to that level. It is going to take an imaginative solution to get their truck up there.

The curriculum development is an exercise to decide and document exactly what the students will be doing in the club. We are focusing upon four activity areas. These include on-air operating, classroom learning, electronics lab (hands-on experimentation and building), and special activities, like Fox Hunts, Public Service Events, etc. The Committee has spent many hours brainstorming ideas and plans to turn those ideas into a program that will attract and engage the students. Lee, KC8ITI, and Dennis, N8ERF, are in the process of

putting together a proposal on how we are going to organize and conduct the classroom and laboratory activities. At a recent committee meeting Zach Purtill, KD8ULE and his dad, Doug, KD8OLC, joined us. Zach is a sophomore at Midland High and had passed his Tech exam the day before. At our invitation, Zach provided us with some very thoughtful ideas on what would make the club interesting and attractive to him. Zach has also agreed to get some of his fellow students together so we can hear what they have to say about what would attract them to the club. Zach is going to be a wonderful asset for the club.

As of this writing, we have a visit to the University of Michigan Electrical Engineering department and the W8UM club station and their monthly meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 11th. We will try to take some pictures and have a report at the May MARC meeting.

This is a huge undertaking and a number of folks have put a lot of effort into this project. These include WD8BPT, W8QN, KC8ITI, N8CGP, KD8ULJ, WB8WNF, KD8QAM, K0ACP and N8ERF. Next month I will list the folks I undoubtedly missed this month! Please consider making a financial investment in the youth of Midland County and the future of Amateur Radio. Send checks to the Midland Amateur Radio Club, c/o MHS ARC, P.O. Box 1049, Midland, MI 48641.

73 de N8ERF

Changes in Clare County ARES®

Welcome to the Jack Pine Country - Clare County Emergency Management. We thank you for the opportunity to share a little of what is happening up North. My name is Richard Johnson, KA8DCJ, EC for Clare County. We are few as far as volunteers, but have made some real progress for our county's VHF and UHF capabilities. We have a VHF repeater located in Farwell, 147.200 with a height above ground level of 180Ft

giving it a very good footprint. We are in the process of coordinating a UHF repeater, 443.500 located eight miles West of Harrison on M-61 with an antenna height above ground level of 175 Ft.

This winter we received our club call—KD8TUV. We also have a VHF Packet digipeater up and running on 145.090. The alias is "clarec." We are going to have an APRS digi up and

running on 144.390 as soon as the weather breaks so we can get the antenna up.

Jerry, KD8CYK, is one of my assistant EC's. He is also one of three Digital traffic handlers for Michigan and is a great asset to Clare County Emergency Management Team. Our Technical Advisor is Tom Nance, KD8QVX; we could not have accomplished what we have done

Explore the World with Amateur Radio!

without Tom.

We have two other members of our team who are always ready for a challenge. John, W8JLT and Dale, KD8QLE. No matter what needs to be done, antenna work, volunteer work, etc., they are always ready to help.

Another responsibility of our Team is

the Weather Station located at the Airport. We are also responsible to open up and man the Shelter located in the Clare County Court House in the event of severe weather.

None of this could happen without the support of our Emergency Manager, Jerry Becker. He is very supportive of Amateur

Radio's part in Emergency Management.

Here's wishing all of our counties a quiet summer, knowing that if needed, Amateur Radio is there to serve.

Richard Johnson, KA8DCJ
EC, Clare County

Michigan Section News - April 2013

Greetings to the Hams of Michigan:

I think we are finally about to turn the corner into spring here in Michigan. The folks in the northern parts of the state may disagree with me as they look out the window and gaze upon the snow, but I think we are about there.

Of course, spring brings with it thoughts of convective weather and the need for preparation on a number of fronts. Be sure to attend Skywarn Spotter training for that all important refresher course and contact your county Emergency Coordinator to ask how you can assist in your county's spotter networks and other emergency preparedness activities.

New Michigan Affiliated Club Coordinator

I am pleased to announce that effective April 10, 2013, Michigan has a new Affiliated Club Coordinator. I have appointed Hollis (Chip) Locke, WB8ALW from Portage, MI as our new ACC. Chip has many years experience as a ham and has been extremely active in ham radio club activities around the Kalamazoo area. You can reach Chip at wb8alw@arrl.net.

Our previous ACC, Scott Bicknell, WIBIC decided to hang up the spurs after several years as ACC. He always did an outstanding job as ACC and we all wish him well in future endeavors. When you see either Chip or Scott, be sure to thank them for their service to amateur radio in Michigan.

Michigan QSO Party

April 20 is the date of the 2013 running of the Michigan QSO Party and I encourage everyone to join in the fun. The event runs from noon to midnight and is great fun. For those of you that live in the small towns and rural counties of Michigan, this is your time to shine! Often rural counties are rare locations during the QSO Party and you can find yourself as a much desired contact! Imagine being the object of a pileup! This is a great activity for a club or for just a few friends to gather for a little radioactive fun! Put your county on the air and I hope to hear you! Complete information available at www.miqp.org.

73 until next month,
Larry, WB8R

Technical Topics and Information

(ARRL Contest Update—March 27, 2013) If you're interested in *VOCAP*, Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA has posted a *VOCAP* tutorial on the ARRL website. < <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/propagation/Voacap.pdf> >

- If you have more than one manufacturer's handheld radio, you'll be glad to hear of an open source tool used to program different radios called *CHIRP*. < <http://chirp.danplanet.com/projects/chirp/wiki/Home> > At the moment it covers the basic programming needs - frequency, tone, offset, etc - of a wide variety of handhelds. Since it is an open source project, there may be additional features added in the future. (Thanks, John KF5KI)

- *ARRL Propagation Bulletin 011* mentions a handy tool for converting a street address into latitude/longitude co-

ordinates. It is useful for determining locations for propagation prediction and other programs based on FCC database address records or for your own location. < <http://stevemorse.org/jcal/latlon.php> >

- Pete N4ZR has been busy! "Before last weekend's (ARRL DX) contest, I had a chance to experiment a bit with my voice recordings. One of the problems I have always had is that when I try to enunciate clearly I slow down and the resulting recording lacks the urgency you expect in a contest situation. I also notice stations whose recorded and live audio don't sound anything alike and wanted to minimize that as much as possible." Here is a method Pete found of using the *Audacity* audio software tools to speed up the recording while still keeping enunciation crystal clear. < [\[ing.com/archives/html/CQ-Contest/2013-03/msg00111.html\]\(http://ing.com/archives/html/CQ-Contest/2013-03/msg00111.html\) >](http://lists.contest-</div><div data-bbox=)

- Many digital contesters are aware of DL4RCK's *RCKSkimmer* software, which allows skimming of RTTY and other digital signals by scanning for them with a conventional receiver. Now Wes, WZ7I has come up with an ingenious way to generate seven bands of CW spots and two additional bands of digital spots, all from a single QS1R receiver. The *Reverse Beacon Network* is ready for digital spots - this will definitely increase the number of spots available to digital DXers and contesters worldwide. < <http://reversebeacon.blogspot.com/> > (Thanks, Pete N4ZR)

- Technical mavens would do well to check out the project-packed web page of Jim VK5TR. I can smell the soldering irons heating up now!

More Technical Topics and Information

(ARRL Contest Update—April 10, 2013) The use of an external SDR receiver

as a panadapter requires acquiring the IF signal from the main radio. To isolate the

two radios and prevent loading of the main IF, it's a good idea to use a buffer amp as

shown in this modification for the IC-910H VHF/UHF radio by VK2DAG. (Thanks, Les N1LF) <<http://www.vk2dag.com/Docs/IC-910%20SDR%20Mod.pdf>>

- It's bug-nest-building season again north of the Equator and the wee beasts will be investigating every suitable home, including antenna traps and other outdoor enclosures with drain holes. Keep the little buggers on the right side (that would be the OUT side) of your electronics by covering the hole with a little piece of window screen. Electrical tape or an outdoor glue will hold it securely. (Thanks, Brian K3KO)

- Talk about hand tools—here's the pump drill—one of the oldest of all and it still might have an application in the field! <<http://blog.makezine.com/2013/02/26/tool-uses-the-pump-drill/>>

- For building that new receiving array, Frank W3LPL recommends these inexpensive 24-volt microwave SPDT RF

relays sealed in a DIP package from Electronic Goldmine as having superb isolation. It takes only 8 milliamps to drive the coil. <<http://www.goldmine-electronics.com/prodinfo.asp?number=G16510>>

- Roger VE3ZI notes that he uses some surplus hardline with an aluminum outer and a solid copper inner conductor. In the cold temperatures of the Ontario winters, the different thermal expansion characteristics of the two metals causes the copper conductor (which expands and contracts more) to pull a contact completely out of a connector! To keep this from happening, form the hardline into an S-bend next to the connector. If there is a joint between two cable runs, make one bend on each side of the joint.

- *Antenna 4 Has No Base Current* is the title of a recent *Design News* magazine "Sherlock Ohms" column. Anyone who has wrestled with technical problems will enjoy reading through these engineering detective short stories.

<http://www.designnews.com/author.asp?section_id=1368&doc_id=248351&dfpPPParams=ind_184,bid_272,aid_248351&dfpLayout=blog>

- As camping, fishing, and gardening take off, watch for sales and specials of materials that also make good "ham stuff". For example, fishing tackle boxes, fencing wire, rope, and other outdoor recreation supplies are all useful around the shack and antenna farm!

Technical Web Site of the Week - A bias tee allows you to send dc on a coax feed line without affecting RF signals on the same feed line. The general design parameters are discussed in this *Wikipedia* article. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bias_tee> For use with Beverages, Les W2LK recommends using 0.1 μ F capacitors and 100 μ H inductors rated for the load current. If you want to use ac current instead of dc, check out the Ameritron RCS-4 remote coax switch circuit.

MARC Vital Statistics

Memberships Expiring in April

KB8PGW
N8LBF

WB8FYR
WD8ODG

Memberships Expiring in May

KD8QAM

Memberships Expiring in June

K8RI
N8JBW
KB8QWQ

KC8TQS
N8KRL
NX8A

WA8KJR
KA8HQW
WD8SDX

Current Active Club Membership 54

Birthdays Celebrated in April/May

KC8TQS 4/9
KC8SRT 4/11
KB8TBI 4/14
KD8CUX 4/17
N8KFE 4/18
W8AWS 4/19
KC8IHB 4/19
KD8OLC 4/20

WA8LQD 4/27
KD8HIC 4/27
KA8EZX 4/28
KD8MQX 4/28
W8CVZ 4/28
N8JBW 4/30
KC8KOC 5/5
KD8QAM 5/5

KC8YHQ 5/11
KD8FSI 5/12
KD8MRC 5/12
KD8MQZ 5/18
KC8MUD 5/19
K8CCE 5/20
WD8AXR 5/25
WD8SDX 5/27

Anniversaries Celebrated in April/May

WD8OEU and Grace 4/17
KD8OLC and Lori 5/14

KB8QWQ and Kate 5/16
KD8EUR and Julie 05/17

Information is from data received 2/25/2013

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