

MARC MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER



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LIFE MEMBERS

Lee Hodges KC8ITI, Linda Hodges KC8MUD, Larry Macklin N8CGP, Dennis Klipa N8ERF, John Wolters W8QN, Will Halphen K8VFO

MARC Web Page – www.w8kea.org

Midland W8KEA Repeater — 147.000 MHz +, 103.5 Hz

NEXT CLUB MEETING — May 1st, 2025 at 7:30 pm, Salvation Army Building, 220 S. Waldo Ave.

Spring! Longer days and milder weather bring new opportunities for outdoor operations, emergency preparedness drills, and antenna projects. Whether you're chasing DX, experimenting with new modes, or simply enjoying the camaraderie of fellow hams, there's always something exciting on the airwaves!



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View From the Top of the Tower



At the next meeting of MARC, we will be about 28 hours away from the school club's high-altitude balloon launch. Each year, the launch is a time of great excitement and apprehension about having a successful launch and recovery. See my article on the school clubs in this issue.

This is the first issue of the club's newsletter after about a 6-year pause. I want to thank Kanushi, KE8RNA, for taking on this, in my opinion, a very important role for the health of our club, which will be the main topic for this VIEW. And before you start thinking bad things, no, I did not twist Kanushi's arm to take this role. I did not even suggest it to her. She already has a ton of things on her plate. Speaking of things on her plate, I am over the top proud to inform you that Kanushi has been appointed as the Michigan Section Youth Coordinator. Congratulations on your appointment!

I am thrilled to see that the newsletter will once again be delivered to our members and past members. Why, because I think it does two things. First, it helps to create a sense of community amongst the membership by keeping them aware of what is happening. I think we have lost a bit of that sense of community and fellowship because of the double whammy of losing the newsletter in June of 2019 and the isolation brought on by COVID. And second, it documents who we are and what we did.

Lee, KC8ITI, maintains an archive on the club website of newsletters from 2010 to the present. Stan, K6VWE, our club historian, has two bound volumes of club newsletters from the beginning of the club until the end of 2010 when the collection was produced by N8ERF, at least all the known newsletters at the time of the collection's creation. Lee has electronic copies of all the rest of the known newsletters and will be looking at getting them uploaded to the newsletter archives on the W8KEA.org website. Why is that sense of community important? To me, it makes our club live. It gives our membership a reason to belong. And speaking of membership, we currently have 31 paid and life members. The last time I was president, 35 years ago, we had about 100 paid and life members! A few years before that, we had fewer than 30 members.

What is the reason for the difference between then and now? After reviewing the club's history in the newsletters, I believe that there are four major contributors: 1. World circumstances beyond our control. For us, COVID had a huge impact on socialization in general, and we took a big hit from that. In the early days of our club, the 1950s and the 60s were filled with surplus military gear from WWII, which inspired a lot of interest in experimentation, and the transistor and computers were brand new inventions. 2. A consistent effort to create new ham in the area and recruit new members. 3. The club provides value to its members. The definition of value in this case is a little vague, but you know it when you see it. Why should I spend time and effort in the club? 4. Participation of and contribution of the membership in activities! I have a gut-level feeling that MARC is going to see an increase in membership, membership enthusiasm, and more stuff happening in the near future.

- 73 de N8ERF

From the Michigan Section Manager, Larry Camp, **WB8R- April 2025 Section News...**



Greetings and welcome to April. The weather is alternating between snow and sunshine, but one thing is for sure that warmer weather is on the way. And of course, warmer weather means hamfests and other outside activities.

New Michigan Section Youth Coordinator

I am extremely pleased to announce that the Michigan Section of the ARRL has a new Section Youth Coordinator. Kanushi Desai, KE8RNA from Midland, MI, has been appointed to serve as Section Youth Coordinator. Kanushi is already hard at work on getting organized and ready to go to work. You will be hearing a lot from this dynamic young lady. If you should come in contact with her, be sure to congratulate her on her appointment.

A few words from Kanushi:

Hi everyone! My name is Kanushi Desai, KE8RNA, and I'm excited to serve as the Michigan Section Youth Coordinator. I'm a high school student from Midland. I've been licensed since 2021 and enjoy helping out at local events and being a part of the high school electronics club in Midland. One of my goals in this role is to connect young hams across the state and help build a stronger youth presence in our section. If you or your club know of any youth-focused clubs, younger operators, or students who might be interested in radio/ electronics, I'd love to hear from you! Even just a quick introduction helps paint a clearer picture of where our youth involvement is strongest- and where we can grow. You can reach me at ke8rna@arrl.net, and I'll also be at the Dayton Hamvention and most likely the Midland Swap, so feel free to say hello!

School Electronics Club Report

The Electronics and Wireless Communications Club at **Midland High School**, which is open to all high school students in Midland County, is doing OK, but it could be better. Physics teacher Andy Fawcett, KD8ULJ, is the faculty sponsor for the club. I want to thank the volunteer advisors who have been helping this year, including Lee, KC8ITI, and Will, K8VFO. Paul, N8GEM, had a conflict this year when we changed our meeting time from after dinner to right after school. Ashish, VU2APN, who helped us out last year, had to return to India for an extended stay. Something insignificant, like his son getting married!

Our attendance was pretty good for the first semester, but after Christmas, when robotics kicked in, we saw a dramatic drop in attendance. We will be holding a brainstorming session to see if we can come up with a better offering to the students and change that around. One of the counselors at Midland High, Craig Williams, has done some research on what it takes to make a successful club, and he is going to share his findings with us. And two recent articles in the Great Lakes Division newsletters on the "Secret Sauce" on how to have a vibrant club have also given us some food for thought.

The Electronics and Wireless Communications Club at **Northeast Middle School** continues to do well, with about 25 active students. Tim Kipfmiller, 8th-grade science teacher, is the faculty sponsor for this club. We are in the throes of preparing for our May 3rd balloon launch. It is an exciting time with students divided into teams to perform the activities required to get the balloon launched and recovered. Will, K8VFO, is leading the Payload Team, whose job it is to build the box that will contain all of the electronic gear include two APRS transmitters, a FM CW transmitter, an audio beacon, a GoPro camera, and an Arduino microcomputer and sensor package to collect data as the balloon ascends to near 100,000 feet, bursts and then parachutes back to earth. Jackie, N8NNA, leads to prediction team, which is responsible for picking the launch and landing sites and predicting the flight path, and defining the amount of helium to put into the balloon. The prediction is done using the online tools at Sondehub.org. The flight can be tracked by going to APRS.fi and searching for N8NNA-11 or W8MHS-11.

Dennis, N8ERF, is leading the APRS team, which is responsible for preparing one of the APRS transmitters and for tracking the flight of the balloon independent of the internet. At some point, the balloon will get too low and signals will not be able to reach an I-gate to get to the internet. Therefore, we need to be able to receive and interpret signals coming from the payload directly.

Mr. Brown, a former math teacher and long-time volunteer with the club, leads the launch vehicle team. They are responsible for assembling the whole package, including the balloon, radar reflector, parachute, and payload. On the day of the launch, they are also responsible for ensuring that the proper amount of helium gets put into the balloon. Too little helium and the balloon will go well past its intended landing zone and perhaps land in Lake Huron or even Canada. Too much helium and the balloon will burst prematurely, and it could land in a forested area. Special thanks to MARC club member, Daniel Suttkus, KR1NGL, for purchasing the helium this year. It wasn't cheap!

And finally, the photography team, which is led by Carman Kessler, a retired teacher and long-time volunteer with the club. This team is responsible for preparing the GoPro Camera for launch and documenting everything we do during the training phase, launch phase, and recovery phases, not to mention the post-flight celebration. We do this so we can share the experience with others.

On May 3rd, at 7:00 a.m., we will be having a final meeting with everyone at Northeast Middle School to give final instructions and head out to the launch and recovery zones. If you would like to join us on the adventure, let me know, or just show up. I can use a few more operators for communications.

- Dennis Klipa N8ERF





W8KEA Station Report...

John Wolters, W8QN

There have been some great discussions about the future of the repeater over the last two months. It has ranged from current status to what we might do in the future, and current critical hardware.

In the current status space, still working on putting a permanent remote receiver at Midland High School. The current temporary setup is working well, but tying up the High School VHF/UHF antennas. Consistent warmer and drier weather is the main holdup. Reinstallation of the Edenville remote is next on the list.

Futures include working on getting Ethernet access for the repeater and looking into what that may allow us to do.

Current critical hardware is our remote receiver and voting hardware. This piece of hardware selects which remote receiver out of four is voted (selected) to be placed on the air. The existing hardware is no longer manufactured or supported. There used to be a thriving commercial hardware market, but that no longer exists as the commercial market has shifted to interfacing exclusively with their hardware over the internet. No one size fits all anymore. So, if our current Voter stops working, and we are not able to repair it ourselves, we will be limited to what the main repeater site can hear. Investigation continues, but there is no quick, easy answer right now.



From the Midland County RO...

Jack Robinson, K8GTG

As you may know, the RO's role is to liaise with the city and county, representing the amateur radio community. Ric (KD0RMK) and I have been meeting with assorted city and county leaders, discussing their needs and future opportunities for our club, ARES, and AUXCOMM volunteers. Our club has a long tradition of assisting our community with public service events (like the walk-runs) and with public safety events (weather spotting, assisting with local emergencies, etc.).

With that in mind, the entire club, and especially the ARES and AUXCOMM volunteers, will be seeing more discussions about radio skills. Some practice sessions in message passing, radio usage, the phonetic alphabet, and of course, weather spotting (Skywarn). Regardless of your radio background or skill sets, we can use everybody to contribute to the needs of a community emergency or public service event. Many times, you can assist in an event without the need to leave your home, just have your amateur license and a ham radio nearby! We've been lucky here in Midland weather-wise for the last few years. Northern Michigan had a monster ice-storm at the end of March, and the lower part of the state had a severe line of wind storms roll through, taking out tens of thousands without power. It is just a matter of time before Midland is the bullseye for severe weather - are we prepared? Amateur radio had a role in both events!

Providing assistance during an event means preparation beforehand. Refresher courses and practice sessions. Getting your contact information so we can reach out and see if you're available during an event. The same thing is happening with our neighbors in the Saginaw club. When an event happens, not everybody is available at that moment, so the more folks we have in the area with the desire to assist, the better!

Much has changed over the years in both radio technology and the volunteer scene. And I'm pleased to say we, the radio group, are needed even more than ever. Ric and I will likely offer some additional meetings beyond the normal monthly club meeting. (Just like we used to do before Covid lockdowns ruined get-togethers.) Please join us - you're needed!



From the Midland County EC...

Ric Sauer, KD0RMK

Interested in ARES?

For some people, getting into amateur radio is about helping others, community service, and being part of something that's been around for over 90 years. For others, it's the truly original social networking environment that allows us to share simple and complex things with anyone willing to listen. Amateur radio isn't a cheap hobby. It is something that will not go away, and it is the simplest way to communicate with others in times of crisis. The amateur radio community has grown and evolved to include a plethora of communication modes, gadgets, and technology that allows us to communicate in ways our forefathers couldn't imagine. The equipment is too expensive to just talk for fun. Join me and several others in the area to support and serve our community by using our equipment, knowledge, and tenacity to be the team that doesn't fail when all else does. Jack (K8GTG) and I are planning a few meetings where we work together to better support our community and the many event opportunities in Midland County. We want to keep amateur radio visible in the community.

Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service Corps: <https://mi-arpsc.org/>

ARRL: [ARES](#), [ARRL Sections- Michigan](#)

If you want to be a member of ARES or any of the other services, please contact Ric Sauer: KD0RMK@arrl.net

Join our local DISCORD server.

Help us communicate event-related activities via DISCORD. Our DISCORD server is dedicated to amateur operator use only. You must be approved for access when you arrive. The site has several dedicated channels that can be used to disseminate or just discuss information related to the channel topic. This is a perfect forum to strategize or plan events for our group. It's also a perfect forum for people to ask questions and get answers from others who have experience or have worked hard to get similar answers themselves.

Join here - <https://discord.gg/CEX7kn6ev6>. Contact KD0RMK@arrl.net if you have any questions or issues.

Annual EC meeting in White Lake

Last month, I attended the NWS/EC/MICOM meeting at the White Lake NWS facility. This was a terrific group of seasoned professionals who are the epitome of what serving the community is all about. It was a short 2-hour meeting that was packed with information. The topics included.

- NOAA Weather Service – recent weather events and NWS responses
- Emergency Coordinators – basic status and update to the counties represented
- MICON – Support infrastructure and seasonal response

This meeting introduced me to several like-minded amateur radio operators who know the unique needs of Michigan. Every county seems to have its own set of goals and accomplishments based on its community and customer needs. I look forward to sharing some of the ideas with our emergency service team members as we mature in our ability to support the expectations of our own community and our neighboring communities in Midland County.

Just For Fun

It was 11 April 1953. Mark Sullivan (Acting president and director of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company) took a glimpse at the future.

Sullivan was quoted as saying: “Just what form the future telephone will take is, of course, pure speculation. Here is my prophecy: In its final development, the telephone will be carried about by the individual, perhaps as we carry a watch today. It probably will require no dial or equivalent, and I think the users will be able to see each other, if they want, as they talk. Who knows, but it may actually translate from one language to another?”

April 3rd Meeting Minutes

<https://w8kea.org/wp-content/uploads/library/Meeting-Minutes/2025/2025-04-April-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

The meeting was called to order by Dennis N8ERF at 7:30 pm with 19 members and two via Zoom.

Introductions and a sign-in sheet were passed around. Welcome to the new members.

A motion was made by Ric KD0RMK to accept the March minutes, seconded by Stan K6VWE. Passed.

Treasurer’s report- John W8QN- Thank you to all those members who have renewed their membership.

ARES Report- Ric KD0RMK- SkyWarn Training will be held in Bay City on April 9th at 701 Salzburg Ave, and in Saginaw on April 23rd at the Thomas Township Fire Department.

School Clubs- Dennis N8ERF- Not too much to report. The Middle School Balloon Launch will take place on May 3rd. Training for that has begun.

VE Exam Session- Dennis N8ERF- Dennis reports that all went well and that ten new hams tested and passed the exam that day. Well done....

New appointees- Dennis N8ERF- Max KE8DON has a new Section Level appointment, and Kanushi KE8RNA also has a new Section Level Appointment. Kanushi's job will include promoting amateur radio to other young people around the state. Congratulations to both Max and Kanushi for your dedication and commitment to Amateur Radio. Exec Meeting - Dennis N8ERF- Three topics were discussed at the Exec meeting held on March 27th.

- 1) Lee KC8ITI has asked if anybody would like to take over the duties as quartermaster. The job would include storing and selling club equipment. Dennis suggested it might be a job for two people.
- 2) Repeater- Discussions about future use, prioritizing jobs, and maintaining repeater sites. A committee has been set up. If you have ideas and or expertise in this area, let John W8QN or Dennis N8ERF know.
- 3) Membership dues- A discussion was had about how to collect dues and the reasons why our club has lost membership. It was suggested that a lack of community and no newsletter are factors. Your ideas on how to maintain and increase membership are welcome.

Swap- Keith KB8SOE- The swap will be held on June 14th. Keith also reported that their Ham in a Day class was successful. He also wanted to know if there were any plans to get together for the April 20th Michigan QSO Party.

Hospital Tower- Keith KB8SOE- Discussion about the Repeater Tower on the hospital. Keith wants to use that tower for a mesh net antenna.

Knowledge- Dennis N8ERF- Dennis commented on how much combined knowledge is in this club and this room, and that at each meeting, there should be a question-and-answer session. Some new operators could benefit from that. Ric KD0RMK gave an overview of a website called Discord, which can also be used to answer questions.

Presentation Jack K8GTG- Jack used up the rest of the evening with a lively and interesting talk on Software Defined Radio. Thank you Jack, that was great.

A motion was made by Larry N8CGP to adjourn and seconded by Stan K6VWE
The meeting ended at 9:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Linda KC8MUD
MARC Secretary

Upcoming Events (Michigan/ ARRL)

May 3, Wexaukee ARC Hamfest, Cadillac, MI
May 10, GMARC Trunk Swap, Shelby Twp, MI
May 16-18 DAYTON HAMVENTION Xenia, OH
Jun 7, IRA Hudsonville Swap, Hudsonville, MI
Jun 7, LARS Yooper Hamfest, Newberry, MI
Jun 8, Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall, MI
Jun 14, Midland Hamfest, Midland, MI ----->
Jun 15, Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI
Sep 6, Grand Rapids Area Hamfest, Wyoming, MI
Sep 13, GMARC Trunk Swap, Shelby Twp, MI
Sep 14, Adrian Hamfest, Adrian, MI
Sep 20, Top of Michigan ARC Hamfest, Gaylord, MI
Oct 11, Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest, Muskegon, MI
Oct 19, USECA Hamfest, St. Clair Shores, MI

You can always find the latest information on upcoming hamfests on the Great Lakes Division website.

(https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search/Location.division_id:gl)

The Great Lakes Division policy now has 2 requirements. Any club requesting ARRL sanctioning within the Great Lakes Division must now be an ARRL-affiliated club with a maximum of two hamfests/swaps in any given calendar year, and they must be at least four months apart.

Midland Amateur Radio Club



Swap & Shop
and
TRUNK SALE



Featuring: *Amateur Radio Equipment* *Electronic Parts*
Computer Parts *Electronic Test Equipment* *Food*
Radio Antenna Equipment *Door Prizes*
*VE Testing Session - Preregistration required *

Saturday June 14th 2025

Set-up 6:30 AM

Show time 8AM – Noon???

Salvation Army Building – 330 Waldo Ave. – Midland, Michigan
Talk in on the Midland Repeater 147.00+ with PL of 103.5 Hz

ADMISSION \$5.00

Tables \$10.00

Trunk Sales \$5.00



For more information Contact:
Keith Johnson, KB8SOE
Phone (989) 737-9023 or
Email kb8soe@kb8soe.com

For VE testing session information
contact: Dennis K. Klipa, N8ERF
Phone (989) 948-5427 or
email n8erf@arrl.net
Preregistration required

MARC Items of Interest

MARC Merchandise

MARC items can still be acquired. Contact McCreadie Sales Printwear & Promotion at (989) 631-7650 or visit the store at 601 S Saginaw Rd, Midland, MI 48640!

MARC Help Wanted!

Club Quartermaster - We have been looking for someone to take over for Lee (KC8ITI). This is a great opportunity!

Newsletter Deadline

Contact KE8RNA at ke8rna@arrl.net if you would like to submit anything– articles, images, events, etc. – to the newsletter. The deadline for items for inclusion in the newsletter is the last Thursday of the month!

MARC Meetings

Paul Morabito is in charge of presentation topics for our monthly meetings and has been doing a good job. If you have a topic on which you would like to present or would like to lead a discussion, please contact Paul at (989) 859-6669 or plmorabito21@gmail.com

Join us for our May 1st club meeting, where Lee Hodges, KC8ITI, will present “Linux for Hams.” Whether you're a beginner or an experienced operator, this talk will explore how Linux can enhance your amateur radio experience with useful tools, applications, and tips tailored for hams. Don't miss this opportunity to expand your technical toolkit!

To volunteer for net control, contact Ric Sauer KD0RMK at *kd0rmk@arrl.net*

VE Examination Sessions

If you need to find an examination session, please check the ARRL website for scheduled exam sessions in Michigan at: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml?State=MI>
Or contact Dennis Klipa by email at N8ERF@arrl.net or call at (989) 948-5427.

+ Other Items Of Interest!

From CISA.GOV (Courtesy of Ric Sauer KD0RMK)

Implement multi-factor authentication on your accounts

A password isn't enough to keep you safe online. By implementing a second layer of identification, like a confirmation text message or email, a code from an authentication app, a fingerprint or Face ID, or best yet, a FIDO key, you're giving your bank, email provider, or any other site you're logging into the confidence that it is you. Multi-Factor authentication can make you significantly less likely to get hacked. So, enable multi-factor authentication on your email, social media, online shopping, and financial services accounts. And don't forget your gaming and streaming entertainment services!

Update your software

In fact, turn on automatic updates. Bad actors will exploit flaws in the system. Update the operating system on your mobile phones, tablets, and laptops. And update your applications – especially the web browsers – on all your devices too. Leverage automatic updates for all devices, applications, and operating systems.

Think before you click

More than 90% of successful cyberattacks start with a phishing email. A phishing scheme is when a link or webpage looks legitimate, but it's a trick designed by bad actors to have you reveal your passwords, social security number, credit card numbers, or other sensitive information. Once they have that information, they can use it on legitimate sites. And they may try to get you to run malicious software, also known as malware. If it's a link you don't recognize, trust your instincts and think before you click.

Use strong passwords, and ideally a password manager to generate and store unique passwords

Our world is increasingly digital and increasingly interconnected. So, while we must protect ourselves, it's going to take all of us to really protect the systems we all rely on.

Closing thoughts

Security is a constant Tug-of-war between being secure and convenience. It's mostly up to you to decide how secure you want to be. Just pick a balance that works for your lifestyle and security needs.



Security ↔ Convenience

First Amateur Radio Contact from a SpaceX Spacecraft...

A small, portable ham radio is busy at work connecting astronauts and amateur radio enthusiasts as part of the Fram2 space mission that lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center. Just six hours after the flawless Falcon 9 launch and orbit injection, Rabea Rogge, the first German woman to fly in space, celebrated the feat by taking part in one of her favorite hobbies—ham radio. Rabea (call sign: LB9NJ Norway; KD3AID USA), connected with friends and students at TU Berlin (Berlin Technical University) using a portable Icom IC-705 radio in the Dragon spacecraft. The battery-powered radio is central to one of Rabea's projects during the mission—the Fram2Ham competition, which is well underway. Participants around the world have been receiving and piecing together satellite images being transmitted by Rabea via SSTV. Rabea chose images of three polar geographic areas linked to polar expeditions in the past.

The Fram2 astronauts are orbiting the earth in a 440 km circular orbit over the poles, a first for human spaceflight, and a dream come true for the polar explorers among the four-person all-civilian crew. During the voice contact with TU Berlin on Tuesday, Rabea answered several questions posed by students, among them her role in the mission: Piloting the Dragon and performing the role of research coordinator for the 22 research projects on board, as well as sending out the SSTV images for the Fram2Ham competition. She also spoke about how she reached such a lofty goal: “Be the person who always says ‘Yes’ and lifts up other persons when they have an idea.”

Fram2 is meant to give homage to the three Arctic and Antarctic expeditions of the Norwegian ship Fram, between 1893 and 1912.

Source: Fram2 Makes First Amateur Radio Contact from a SpaceX Spacecraft.” Amateur Radio Daily, 2 Apr. 2025, <https://www.amateurradiodaily.com/fram2-space-contact>. Accessed 10 Apr. 2025.



First Venus Bounce with Dwingeloo Telescope...

On March 22, 2025, a remarkable amateur radio achievement took place when the Dwingeloo telescope successfully bounced a radio signal off the surface of Venus. This experiment occurred during Venus's closest approach to Earth, at approximately 42 million kilometers. The event, part of the Earth-Venus-Earth (EVE) project, is significant because such conjunctions — when Venus is positioned between the Earth and the Sun — happen only about once every 580 days. Previous EVE experiments were conducted in the 1960s and 1970s, primarily for radar imaging of Venus. In 2009, an amateur EVE was successfully carried out by AMSAT-DL at the Bochum Observatory, but this is the first successful Venus bounce with the Dwingeloo telescope. For the experiment, the Dwingeloo telescope transmitted a 278-second tone at 1299.5 MHz. The light travel time to Venus and back was about 280 seconds, which allowed the team to receive the reflection of their own transmitted signal. The team repeated this cycle four times, while the Stockert radio telescope in Germany also successfully received the Venus echo of the Dwingeloo signal. The Stockert telescope provided stronger signals due to its more sensitive receiving equipment. The data analysis includes correcting for Doppler shifts caused by the relative motions of Earth and Venus. Preliminary results showed impressive detection levels, with 5.4 to 9.2 sigma detections, depending on the combination of telescopes. However, the transmitter on the Dwingeloo telescope began to fail after four successful transmissions, so the planned complex modulation tests have been postponed until the next Venus conjunction in October 2026. The experiment involved collaboration with the Deep Space Exploration Society, the Open Research Institute, and volunteers from the CAMRAS and Astropeiler Stockert teams. The data from this experiment is now available online, and a more detailed technical write-up is underway.

Source: Telkamp, Thomas, et al. "First Venus Bounce with the Dwingeloo Telescope." *Blog - Latest News*, 24 Mar. 2025, <https://www.camras.nl/venus-bounce-dwingeloo-telescope>. Accessed 10 Apr. 2025.



“People with Ham Radios”

<https://www.letshangout.com/content-meeting-people-with-ham-radios.php>

While some believe the first ham radio message was sent in 1901, there isn't enough solid evidence to confirm this claim. It's often said that the transmission went from Newfoundland to England and marked the beginning of amateur radio operations. Over time, hobbyists—particularly Americans around 1914—became deeply interested in ham radio, seeing it as both enjoyable and rewarding. As more people got involved, regulations were put in place to manage the use of radio frequencies. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) stepped in and made it mandatory for individuals to obtain a license before operating a ham radio. Much like getting a driver's license, people can purchase and even build their own radios (not necessarily similar to a driver's license in the building regard!) once they're certified.

There's a common misconception that ham radio operators are introverted or isolated. On the contrary, they are part of a vibrant community. Many are drawn to the hobby because it allows them to connect with others who share similar interests, no matter how far apart they are geographically. Operators often remain anonymous and communicate using unique codes. What's fascinating is that ham radio attracts a wide range of people- from young children to adults- proving that anyone can take part, regardless of background.

The ham radio experience goes beyond just on-air conversations. Enthusiasts become members of local or national clubs, where they participate in gatherings and events. The special codes and jargon they use help build a strong sense of camaraderie and trust. For outsiders, the lingo might seem confusing, which sometimes makes the ham radio world feel exclusive or mysterious.

Even with the rise of new technologies, ham radio remains relevant and reliable. The FCC reports that over 500,000 people apply for licenses each year. While modern devices might appear flashier or offer more features, ham radios continue to thrive because of the strong community they create and the thrill of making connections across the airwaves.



MARC VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN MAY 2025

Pat W8PMR, Wendy K8WSR, Paul K8PLM

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN JUNE 2025

Stan K6VWE

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN JULY 2025

none!

CURRENT ACTIVE CLUB MEMBERSHIP

KC8ITI*, KC8MUD*, N8CGP*, N8ERF*, W8QN*, K8VFO*, KB8SOE, K0ACP, N8GEM, KE8MND, AC8QF, KD0RMK, KB8HIK, N4DBR, WB8FYR, WB8WNF, KD8ULJ, KE8DON, K8GTG, KD8MMH, KE8RNA, K6VWE, W8PMR, W8PMR, K8PLM, KR1NGL, KE8AZN, KD8QAM, K8VB, KC8YVF

***Life Member**

MEMBERSHIPS RECENTLY EXPIRED

KR1NGL KE8AZN KD8QAM

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

KF8DSK N8NTN

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

K8WSR W8PMR K8VB KC8YVF

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED IN MAY 2025 🎉

KC8ITI 5/19 KE8DON 5/9 KD8QAM 5/5

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED IN JUNE 2025 🎉

KD8MMH 6/30 KR1NGL 6/3

Information is from data received on April 10, 2025

About the Midland Amateur Radio Club

W8KEA is the Amateur Radio call sign assigned to the Midland Amateur Radio Club (MARC) by the Federal Communications Commission. MARC, established in 1948, holds monthly meetings of its members at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of every month at the Salvation Army Building located at 330 Waldo Ave, Midland, Michigan. MARC is dedicated to the support of the Amateur Radio community in the Midland area, to providing public service and emergency communications to the community and to educating the public in all aspects of Amateur Radio. MARC provides communications support for community events such as the annual Dow Run and the MS Walk on a completely voluntary basis. MARC also works closely with the Midland County Department of Emergency Services, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army to provide voluntary emergency communications support in times of emergency, disaster or severe weather event. MARC offers classes to anyone interested in earning an Amateur Radio License. The club repeater, W8KEA, operates on a frequency of 147.0000 MHz with a positive offset. The PL tone is 103.5. MARC also offers examination sessions so you can take your FCC examination here in Midland. MARC advisors lead the Electronics and Wireless Communications Clubs at Northeast Middle School and Midland High School.

Interested in knowing more about Amateur Radio? Come on down to our next meeting. Everyone is welcome, and we would be happy to get to know you.

MARC is a 501(c)(3) organization. The club's articles of incorporation and bylaws are available for review.

You can learn about amateur radio by visiting the American Radio Relay League website.



If you desire to join the **Midland Amateur Radio Club**, the dues are \$20 per year and \$5 for additional family members. Membership includes a *Monthly Newsletter*. Please supply the following information:

Name _____ Call: _____ N T G A E _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Birthdate (mmddyy) _____ Anniversary _____

Telephone-Home _____ Work _____

Are you an ARRL Member? Yes _____ No _____

If not an ARES member, do you want an application? Yes _____ No _____

Please send to MARC, P.O, Box 1049, Midland MI 48641

❖ **!!STOP RIGHT THERE!!** ❖

This is the end... for now. I hope you enjoyed this edition!

Be Radio Active! 73!

