MARC June 2025 NEWSLETTER

W8KEA REPEATER

MARC

MIDLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 1049, Midland, Michigan 48641-1049

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Swap Committee Chair	Keith Johnson KB8SOE	(989) 948-5427
Resident Agent	Dennis Klipa, N8ERF	(989) 948-5427

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 — June 5th, 2025, at 7:30 pm, Salvation Army Building, 220 S. Waldo Ave.

Summer! Longer days and warmer 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🪟

From the MARC President, Dennis Klipa N8ERF

I want to acknowledge the passing of Del Lafevor, WB8FYR. Del was a long-time and active member of MARC. He was an honorable person, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

The school clubs, arguably the most ambitious of MARC activities, have wrapped up another successful year. Refer to the School Club Report for more details.

Coming up on June 14th is the annual MARC Swap. Thanks to Keith, KB8SOE, for organizing the swap. This should be a fun time to meet up with hams that we don't get to see too often. Lee and I will again be selling equipment to raise funds for the Club and the school clubs, and there will be a VE Session as well. We will be hearing more about the swap at the June meeting.

June 28 and 29 will be Field Day weekend this year. No one has volunteered to organize a MARC field day event, but we have been invited to join the Saginaw club's field day event. Thank you, Mike, KD8MMH. I have been reading some MARC historical documents and past Newsletters. It turns out that getting folks to organize Field Day has been a perennial challenge. My best memories of Field Day are from the years when Raleigh – W8QOI, Don – WA1ELA, and I organized them. It occurred to me that there was a significant difference between how the events were run back then versus recently. It seems that recent field day events involved folks bringing their stations, mobile or not, to a common location and then operating their own stations. In past years, the organizer would arrange to have stations available on multiple bands and modes, then have a sign-up sheet for each band/mode. The first part of Field Day was a very good team-building exercise where we all participated in putting up tents and erecting antennas, including a tower and beam. There was a great opportunity to gain experience in putting up HF antennas.

The second part of field day gave people who might not have an HF station a chance to operate HF. It was a two-person operation; one person operated the radio and the other logged contacts and checked for duplicates. This was done on a cleverly designed paper log that allowed for rapid checking for duplicates. Today, logging and dup checking are done by computer and can be done across multiple stations by using a networked program to check across all computers on the network. There was also a strong social aspect where we would shut down about 5:00 pm on Saturday to have a communal meal, often a turkey plus a dish to pass, more often than not, orchestrated by Dorie French, N8WTQ. You can check out photos from past FD operations on the W8KEA.org website.

I can remember my first field day experience at Bishop Airport in Flint, 59 years ago, where I stayed up all night to operate. I probably won't be pulling an all-nighter again but maybe next year we can renew that experience for some club members who have not had the opportunity to work the HF bands under contest conditions.

⭐From the Michigan Section Manager, Larry Camp, WB8R- May 2025 Section News…

Greetings to all who read this. This month's column will be a bit shorter than most because the amateur radio world is going to (almost literally) come to a halt because the Dayton Hamvention is happening on the 16th-18th of this month. We are so fortunate to have this event reasonably close to us…. The ARRL Field Day is held annually on the last full weekend in June. FD is always a favorite activity and is a great way to introduce new hams to the event and to welcome them to the world of amateur radio contesting. Operating skills for all will improve after an hour or two in the 'hot seat' on FD. Remember, the staples for a successful FD are: Fun, Comradery, Radio, Public Awareness, Learning, and Fun. Did I mention Fun? Gotta have fun… Make sure that you and your club are radioactive. Be sure to get out and have fun, and bring your friends. Attend your local club meetings and make time to attend the meetings of other clubs near you. Be active within your club. Volunteer to be on a committee…. Run for office in your club. Offer to assist. Suggest or even organize a new activity. Invite club members to have a meal together. Be sure to include families. Find a reason to get together. Organize and participate in air activities. Organize a fundraiser for your club. Does your club have a V/UHF net on the air? If so, participate as often as possible. If your club doesn't have an on-air gathering, start said gathering. Don't have a repeater close? Start a simplex net. Or use HF… Or use both repeaters and HF. Activity is the key to a healthy club…. You can find complete MI Amateur Radio Public Service Corps information at www.mi-arpsc.org

That's it for now. Travel safely, and I hope to see you at an event sometime this year.

🏫 School Electronics Club Report 🏫

Dennis Klipa N8ERF

We have just completed another year of introducing students to the world of electronics in our two school clubs. The middle school club ended with a successful High Altitude Balloon launch and recovery with a couple of firsts. This was the first time that the balloon ascended through the Jet Stream with a maximum horizontal velocity of 146 mph and then passed through the Jet Stream again on the way down. It was also the first time that the payload ended up in a tree! Fortunately, Brian Brown and Tim Kipfmiller, with tenacious doggedness, were able to dislodge the payload from the tree. The flight was reported in an article by Dan Chalk in the Midland Daily News.
https://eedition.ourmidland.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=0d45e932-c53c-4d9c-8203-79294089886c
Max will be posting pictures from the flight on the W8KEA website. Congrats to everyone involved.
We will be spending some time this summer re-evaluating how we operate the high school club. We are looking forward to some time off. Thanks to Will -K8VFO, Lee – KC8ITI, Jackie, N8NNA, Art – K0ACP, Andy, KD8ULJ, Brian Brown, Tim Kipfmiller, and Carman Kessler

From the Midland County RO…

Ric Sauer KD0RMK

ARES

Anyone who works on ARES-related activities needs to send a message to KD0RMK@ARRL.NET to include the activity type, location, duration, and any transportation costs. This is how we measure the potential impact on the community in providing these services. This includes a number of activities in supporting the community and the associated preparation, training, and materials used.

- ★ Preparing for training
- ★ Presenting training material
- ★ Receiving training
- ★ Any special tools or services used in any ARES activities
- ★ Travel Time / Distance

A template form will be provided later this month to help gather information while it's fresh in your mind. It's best if these forms are completed based on each aspect of an event. Monthly totals for the group and associated activities will be reported on a regular basis.

ARES Training

Anyone wanting to teach or attend an ARES-related training session can sign up on DISCORD or send an email to KD0RMK@ARRL.NET. Your level of experience isn't as important as your ability to teach and present material. Much of the training material is already available online.

If you're looking for the big picture, a good place to start is the IS-100.C training. This is an introduction to the Incident Command System, which introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher-level ICS training. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The Emergency Management Institute developed its ICS courses collaboratively with:

- ★ National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)
- ★ U.S. Department of Agriculture
- ★ United States Fire Administration's National Fire Programs Branch

See Jack's message about Skywarn and Skywarn training. This is mandatory for anyone who wants to help out with participating in a Skywarn NET. The training is essential for knowing what and how to report weather conditions as they occur.

🗒️ From the Midland County EC…

Jack Robinson K8GTG

Midland Needs Weather-Spotters!

It's already been a busy weather activity during April and May for Michigan, and Midland County already had a tornado warning near midnight on May 15th. This summer may have more severe weather, and weather spotters can help report observations that might not show up on radar. Both the National Weather Service (NWS) and Midland County Central Dispatch would love to hear from trained weather spotters. Most of the time, your observations can (and should) take place from the comfort and safety of your home. No need to jump in your car and chase tornadoes (please don't).

Need Skywarn training? Check out this National Weather Service web page describing the program: https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/. From there, online classes are available for free at this link: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/education_training/course/23.
These 2 online courses take about 2 hours, which is what the in-person class takes.
The next local in-person class might not be until this fall.

Lastly, let Ric Sauer (KD0RMK@ARRL.NET and copy Chris Rose (kb8uih88@charter.net) of your interest! The more folks who assist in weather spotting, the better the overall picture of weather happenings can be provided. Typically, you will join a weather net and report your observations following the guidelines outlined by the NWS (National Weather Service).

Your help with Weather Spotting is a vital need and is much appreciated! Come join the fun.

⏰ May 1st Meeting Minutes ⏰

Source: https://w8kea.org/wp-content/uploads/library/Meeting-Minutes/2025/2025-05-May-Meeting-Minutes.pdf

The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 PM by Dennis N8ERF, with 22 members and guests present and 1 via Zoom. A sign-in sheet was passed around, and introductions were made.

Treasurer's Report – John W8QN – Thank you to all those members who have renewed their memberships.

Correction to April's minutes – Dennis N8ERF – Max KE8DON has been the Section Emergency Coordinator for several years, and was not just recently elected to that position. Thank you, Dennis. Please bring corrections and additions to the minutes to the attention of the secretary. We want our information to be accurate and up to date. A

motion was made by Ric KD0RMK to approve the minutes. Seconded by Doug N8NTN, passed.

Raleigh's Call – Kevin KB8QWQ applied for and is now W8QOI. Congratulations, Kevin. You have some big shoes to fill.

ARES Report – Ric KD0RMK – Ric's report included a reminder to sign up for Net Control and to be sure to fill out your activity sheets. A short tutorial on the use of Discord and how exercises are planned and prepped for was given. Also, members are invited to the city council meeting to hear a reading of the proclamation request to declare the 21st to the 28th Amateur Radio Week.

Jack K8GTG – Let's stay prepared for severe weather. Jack's word of the day is "derecho" – a long-line, fast-moving windstorm, sometimes including damaging hail, rain, and straight-line winds.

School Clubs – Dennis N8ERF – The clubs are winding down as the end of the school year approaches. We are making a plan to increase attendance and will be back in the fall. The balloon launch is planned for Saturday. Many thanks to Dan KR1NGL for his donation of the helium. It is much appreciated.

Paul K8PLM – Paul knows about a crank-up, tilt-over antenna tower for sale for $500.00, which is located in St. Louis, MI. If you are interested, see Paul for more details.

Swap – Keith KB8SOE – Pass the word and pass out fliers. They can be found on the website. The date is June 14th (the day before Father's Day). Contact Keith to reserve a table. To preregister for the VE session, contact Dennis N8ERF.

Saginaw Club – Ron KC8YVF – Ron needs more operators to help out with the MS Walk in Frankenmuth on May 10th. Please contact Ron if you can spare some time on Saturday morning for this worthwhile cause.

Presentation – Lee KC8ITI – Lee gave a PowerPoint presentation on the uses and advantages of Linux as an alternative to the Windows 11 upgrades. For more information on this subject, go to http://getfedora.org. A long and lively discussion followed.

Ric KD0RMK – Ric shared that T-Mobile was offering satellite texting for free. Ask Ric for more details.

A motion was made by Larry N8CGP to adjourn the meeting and was seconded. The meeting ended at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Linda KC8MUD, MARC Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS 👀

- 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***
    - ***See next page for more info!***
- 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

An ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest

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 💥

!! DISCORD !!

We have a local DISCORD server that is dedicated to Mid-Michigan amateur radio. This is a closed system that requires an invitation and subsequent admission permissions. This is a way for us to communicate status, plans, and activities that are of interest to this group. The site is called MEMCOMM (Michigan Emergency Communications). Don't let the title dissuade you from taking a look. This is for the entire amateur radio community and has dozens of communication genre choices. The server was initially established with a target audience of ARES or RACES. It was initially established in October of 2022, specifically for this area. The server has a SKYWARN channel with an associated API (Application Programming Interface) that connects NWS information to this DISCORD in real time. To the right is one example of the dozens of automated announcements that have been added to the site this year. These announcements are visible via the DISCORD application or browser from your computer or mobile device. Click here to get on our DISCORD Server. You will need to create an account. Do not forget your password. You will not be required to use your password the next time you access the system via the application. For this reason, it may be easy to forget your password.

MARC Merchandise

Did you know that McCreadie Sales has the artwork for MARC? They can put our logo on shirts, jackets, hats, and more. Don't just represent our club, represent it in style. You can go to mccreadiesales.com to place an order with the MARC logo. 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!
Field Day Committee - We are looking for someone to fill this open position! Contact Dennis Klipa N8ERF at n8erf@arrl.net for more information **:)**

Newsletter Deadline

Contact KE8RNA at ke8rna@arrl.net if you would like to submit anything– articles, images, events, ideas, 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 June 5th club meeting, where Max Schneider , KE8DON, will present "An Introduction to AllStarLink". Whether you're new to digital voice or just curious about new tools in the hobby, this talk is a great opportunity to learn more and ask questions. Don't miss it!

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!➕😀

T-Mobile/ T-satellite (not a sales pitch)

Source: Ric Sauer KD0RMK

If you have T-Mobile cellular service, you probably already know about the latest features. Did you know that you can send and receive text messages, even when the local terrestrial-based cell tower system has failed? Stay connected in places never thought possible with T-Satellite – the largest satellite-to-mobile network in the world. Starlink direct-to-cell satellites complement the existing T-Mobile network by acting as cell towers in space. This allows you to stay connected even when you are outside of the range of a cell tower. So, there's no need for new apps or interfaces. It just works. From an emergency services perspective, this is a potential avenue for communication anywhere in the world. Satellite coverage for demanding communication needs is only the first step towards the future.

☀️ARRL Solar Report☀️

Source: https://www.arrl.org/news/the-arrl-solar-report-15 (Read more here)

Solar activity ranged from low to high. Region 4087 produced the strongest event: an impulsive R3 flare on May 14 at 0825 UTC near the NE limb, along with two R2 flares and three R1 events on May 14–15. Region 4086 also produced an R3 flare on May 13 at 1538 UTC. No significant proton events were observed, though a weak enhancement occurred on May 13 after the R3 flare from Region 4086. Geomagnetic conditions were quiet on May 12–13. Late on May 16, activity increased to active levels due to a positive polarity CH HSS and possible CME influence. Solar activity is expected to remain low, with a chance for R1–R2 events through mid-June. Geomagnetic activity will likely be elevated for most of the outlook period due to recurrent coronal hole features. G2 (moderate) conditions are likely on May 29 and June 13. G1 (minor) conditions are likely on May 19, May 28, and June 14. Active conditions are expected May 30–June 1 and June 10. Unsettled levels are likely May 20–23, May 27, June 2–7, and June 11–12, with quiet conditions for the remaining days. In early May, solar activity declined significantly. On May 2, only two spot groups were observed on the entire solar disk. Afterward, spot activity slightly increased in the northern hemisphere, while solar flux dropped notably during mid-May. A large coronal hole appeared in the Sun's southern hemisphere—larger than in previous rotations. Following a brief period of calm at the end of April, geomagnetic disturbances returned in early May. From mid-May onward, solar flux dropped to levels not seen since October 2024. Combined low solar activity and heightened geomagnetic conditions resulted in deteriorated ionospheric propagation, especially between May 7–12 and May 14–18. Improvement is expected by the end of May. The northern hemisphere summer ionosphere typically features lower max frequencies and occasional surprises from the sporadic E layer.

Further Resources:

- ARRL Propagation Info
- Propagation Tutorials
- Understanding Space Weather Numbers

New Yaesu FTX-1 Radios Announced

Yaesu has released information about a new series of radios targeting both field operation and base station use cases. The FTX-1 series of transceivers is made up of the FTX-1 Field and the FTX-1 Optima. Both radios are HF/50/144/430MHz all mode transceivers. While the Field model can operate up to 10 Watts, the Optima can operate up to 100 Watts. Gigaparts has suggested availability as early as mid May.

More details are available from the Yaesu FTX-1 brochure.

🌐 MARC VITAL STATISTICS 🌐

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN JUNE 2025
Stan K6VWE

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN JULY 2025
none!

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN August 2025
Jack K8GTG, Mike KD8MMH, Kanushi KE8RNA, Max KE8DON

CURRENT ACTIVE CLUB MEMBERSHIP
KC8ITI*, KC8MUD*, N8CGP*, N8ERF*, W8QN*, K8VFO*, KB8SOE, K0ACP, N8GEM, KE8MND, AC8QF, KD0RMK, KB8HIK, N4DBR, WB8WNF, KF8DSK, KE8DON, K8GTG, KD8MMH, KE8RNA, K6VWE, W8PMR, K8WSR, KD8ULJ K8VB, KC8YVF, N8NTN, KF8DSP, AB8PS, W8DOD, KB8PGW
***Life Member**

MEMBERSHIPS RECENTLY EXPIRED
KR1NGL, KE8AZN, KD8QAM, K8PLM

NEW MEMBERSHIPS
KF8DSP, AB8PS, W8DOD

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS
KB8PGW

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED IN JUNE 2025 🎉
KD8MMH 6/30

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED IN JULY 2025 🎉
N8NTN

Information is from data received on May 28th, 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.

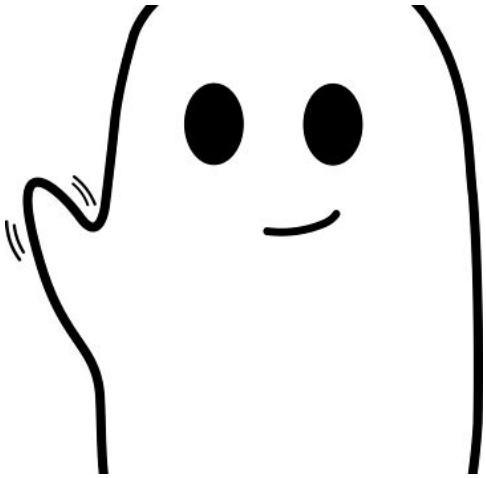
MARC is a 501(c)(3) organization. The club's articles of incorporation and bylaws are available for review.

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 intormation:

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, Midiand MI 48641

🛑 !!STOP RIGHT THERE!! 🛑

This is the end… for now. I hope you enjoyed this edition!
Be Radio Active! 73!
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