

MARC July 2025 NEWSLETTER



President	Dennis Klipa N8ERF	(989) 948-5427
Vice President	Paul Morabito K8PLM	(989) 859-6669
Secretary	Linda Hodges KC8MUD	(989) 652-6213
Treasurer	John Wolters, W8QN	(989) 832-9122
W8KEA Station Trustee	John Wolters W8QN	(989) 832-9122
Midland County RO	Jack Robinson K8GTG	(989) 492-4882
Midland County EC	Ric Sauer KD0RMK	(210) 802-9537
Newsletter Editor	Kanushi Desai KE8RNA	(989) 948-5889
ARRL VEC Liaison	Dennis Klipa N8ERF	(989) 948-5427
Web Page Chairman	Max Schneider KE8DON	(989) 859-4288
Club Historian	Stan Rowe K6VWE	(989) 837-7252
Quartermaster	Lee Hodges KC8ITI	(989) 486-3771
Public Information Officer	Paul Tolly N8GEM	(989) 492-1239
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 — August 7th, 2025, at 7:30 pm, Salvation Army Building, 220 S. Waldo Ave.

*Note: There is no meeting on Thursday, July 3rd, due to Independence Day

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!



Copyright 2005 American Radio Relay League

View From the Top of the Tower

From the MARC President, Dennis Klipa N8ERF

I hope you had an opportunity to visit the Saginaw Field Day this last weekend. I also hope you will have an enjoyable Independence Day with family and friends. Because of the Holiday, we will NOT be having a MARC meeting this month. There will, however, be a net on the Midland repeater at 7:30 pm on Thursday evening. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Midland Swap. I think it was a successful swap. It seemed to me we had more tables sold and lots of visitors. I didn't get to go outside and see the trunk sales, so I can't speak to that. There is a YouTube video of the swap posted by D-lab Electronics. Check it out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scKeHzC8xOE>

Other than Field Day, the rest of the summer should be pretty laid back for the amateur radio community. It is a perfect time to build new antennas or do maintenance on your existing antennas. It is said that January is the best time to do antenna work. That's bunk. What they mean is January is the best time to do antenna work correctly the first time because you don't want to go back out and do it again! I will be tilting my tower over so I can do a little maintenance on the Tilt Plate. This is definitely not a winter activity!

The local hams involved in the high school club will be doing a lot of work this summer as we revamp how we are going to conduct the high school club with more group activities and fewer individual activities. We are also going to see if we can install an HF rig in the Northeast science lab. The challenge is to get an antenna installed. I am thinking maybe a 9:1 balun fed long wire.

At the June 9th Midland City Council meeting, we received a certificate proclaiming June 14th as Amateur Radio Day and the week before as Amateur Radio Week. I and Kanushi, KE8RNA, gave a short presentation on amateur radio. Thanks to Ric, KD0RMK, for promoting Amateur Radio to our government leaders.

73, Dennis, N8ERF

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

Greetings to all who read this, I wish all readers the best, and I hope that you are enjoying the pre-summer. We have had a few days of summer-like conditions that hint at warmer weather to come. As time moves on, I find that I enjoy the moderate weather of spring and fall as opposed to the deep freeze and the blazing heat. However, we get what we get. The 2025 Dayton experience was outstanding, with great weather, huge crowds, and lots of excitement and fun. The attendees were smiling, chatting, and obviously enjoying themselves. I was particularly pleased to have been present when my old friend of around 45 years, Dale Williams, WA8EFK, was presented with the ARRL Lifetime Achievement Award. I cannot think of a single person who

would be more deserving of said award. Thank you, Dale, for your hard work on behalf of Amateur Radio and for being a great friend for all these years. You have earned your retirement, my



friend.... 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 on-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 by? Start a simplex net. Or use HF... Or use both repeaters and HF. Activity is the key to a healthy club....



From the Midland County EC...

Ric Sauer KD0RMK

ARES communication is more than ABC123

As seasoned communicators, it's likely that you have or will in the future pass traffic from one person to others. This is a normal part of what we do. When supporting outside organizations, traffic should always be passed as received. No editorializing, no embellishing the details, and ensure the receiving parties correctly receive the messages. The best way to accomplish this task is to practice. As always, there's a second rule that is almost as important as the first. That is practice. Knowing the ITU (International Telecommunications Union) phonetics helps us to better communicate intricate details when the details really matter. The ITU phonetics are a standard way of communicating with anyone anywhere, including the agencies we support. ARRL has several reference guides that are designed to assist us with emergency communications. Note that this guide covers more than just the alphabet. Numbers are also included. You might think that passing numbers is easy. If you listen to people telling you a number, you'll notice that the format and technical details are not always the same. Emergency communications are always about the details in the message and ensuring that what you say is really what is received.



Welcome to two of our newest ARES members.

N4DBR – David and W8DOD Mitchell. Both signed up for ARES at the MARC Swap Meet. David has been hosting some of the Thursday evening nets for the last few months. This has been a terrific help in sharing the responsibilities. Mitchell is relatively new to this group, but not to the responsibilities that go with being an ARES member. He supported the ARES effort via the MDARC Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club in northern California. Welcome both of you to emergency communications and support for our community. Also, note that both David and Mitchell have accounts in our Discord server.

July Trivia – did you know

- ★ July 1960, the first two-way contact via the Moon took place on 1296 MHz. [MORE](#)
- ★ July 1910 - At this time, there are estimated to be not less than 800 amateur wireless-telegraph stations in Chicago. [MORE](#)

- ★ July 1969 – When Apollo 11 landed on the Moon, millions of radio listeners heard Neil Armstrong say, “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

Thursday night net

Did you know that we have a Thursday night net? Technically a Traffic net, it is also an opportunity to have a rag chew and discuss anything relative to amateur radio and our own local events. This net occurs at 7:30 PM (1930 local) on our W8KEA repeater. The net is open to any licensed amateur radio operator. We are always looking for a person to assist in hosting the net or being a designated backup for the evening. Based on feedback, we always have someone listening who isn't ready to key the microphone or is waiting to get a license. Either way, this is an opportunity to show our team spirit and local contribution to anyone willing to listen and hopefully talk. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ric - KD0RMK@ARRL.NET for more information. The repeater operates on 147.0 MHz PL 103.5. We don't have the net on MARC meeting nights and may only have a limited check-in on holidays.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Join the team – contact KD0RMK@ARRL.NET

Above and beyond technological feats, ham radio operators continue to - silently and selflessly - make amateur radio history by providing vital emergency communications.

- When nature strikes (floods, hurricanes, forest fires, snowstorms, etc)
- Rescue operations
- Humanitarian endeavors
- any other situation where no other public communications services are available.

Ham radio operators are also often called upon to lend a hand with communications during major outdoor events. Hobby or something else? Each person needs to decide for themselves. Your participation is always welcome. We want people at all levels, from casual helpers to seasoned and trained members, to help with our commitment to service.



From the Midland County RO...

Jack Robinson K8GTG

GOING INTO THE SUMMER - SEVERE WEATHER ON THE HORIZON

While residents of Midland County/City are not too worried about hurricanes or wildfires, we can't let our guard down. Hot weather is here and with that brings the possibilities of severe weather in the form of damaging winds, rain, tornadoes, and flash flooding. Be prepared! Have a working NOAA weather radio. Have a portable AM/FM radio that can tune local stations. Remember, if the community is impacted by a local emergency, check these sources for information about conditions, what to do, where to evacuate to, etc:

- TV / Radio Stations (WNEM ch. 5 and local AM/FM radio station) Listen for the Emergency Alert System for broadcasts and for updated information.
- NOAA weather radio (162.475 Flint and 162.525 Mt. Pleasant and 162.450 West Branch).

- Text Alerts from Midland County 911 Central Dispatch.
- Social Media (Midland County or City Facebook, X, Youtube, etc.)
- Web sites (Midland County, Midland City, 211, Central Dispatch 911, etc.)
- Amateur Radio, Midland's repeater at 147.00 with a PL tone of 103.5 and a positive offset.
- Fire stations, town halls, and the library will often post information at main entrances.

When a severe storm rolls thru, it can often take several of the above information sources out - until power, personnel, and communications are restored. Be prepared to seek updated information from these different sources to stay informed!

June 5th Meeting Minutes

Dennis N8ERF brought the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the Salvation Army Building with 21 members and guests present and 1 via Zoom. A sign-in sheet was passed around, and introductions were made.

A motion on the floor to approve the minutes, approved by Ric KD0RMK and seconded by Paul N8GEM. Passed.

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

Swap- Keith KB8SOE- All is going forward, with vendors signing up. Vendors can get in at six AM, and ticket sales begin at 8:00 AM. Please come for set-up at the Salvation Army building on Friday evening, June 13th, at around 6:00 PM and stay afterwards to help clean up on Saturday. A discussion about the VE session followed.

Motion - Dennis N8ERF- A motion on the floor made by Dennis N8ERF to cancel the July Meeting because of it being the day before the Fourth of July. Approved by Keith KB8SOE and Dave N4DBR, seconded it. Passed

Dow Run- Ric KD0RMK- Ric sent around a sign-up sheet for Net Control for the months of June and July. On Saturday, June 7th, the Dow Run takes place in Midland. Contact Chris Rose to help.

Also, the City of Midland council meeting proclaims Amateur Radio Week and Amateur Radio Day at the council Meeting on Monday, June 9th. Please come and show your support.

Field day- Ric KD0RMK- The Saginaw Club has invited our members to join their field day club activities at the Elmer Lange Park. Contact Ron KC8YVF or Mike KD8HMM for more information.

Cadillac Swap- Lee KC8ITI- Lee gave a report on how well the Cadillac Swap went, and also mentioned that all previous newsletters can now be seen on the club's website.

Presentation- Max KE8DON- Max's presentation was an introduction to the All-Star Link. A discussion, questions, and answers followed.

High Altitude Balloon Launch- Dennis N8ERF- The launch took place on May 3rd. Dennis presented a slide show following the students through the process. Lots of fun to watch.

Saginaw Club Report- Ron KC8YVF- Ares Training and a Fox Hunt are coming up.

A motion was made by Larry N8CGP to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Linda KC8MUD Club Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS 👁️

- Jul 26, 2025, Blossomland Hamfest, Berrien Center, MI
- Aug 2, 2025, Delta County ARS, Rapid River, MI
- Sep 6, 2025, Grand Rapids Area Hamfest, Wyoming, MI (WB8R, K8TB)
- Sep 13, 2025, OAARS Hamfest, West Branch, MI (TBD)
- Sep 13, 2025, GMARC Trunk Swap, Shelby Twp, MI (TBD)
- Sep 14, 2025, Adrian Hamfest, Adrian, MI (WB8R)
- Sep 20, 2025, Top of Michigan ARC Hamfest, Gaylord, MI (WB8R)
- Oct 2, 2025, MAARC Meeting, Muskegon, MI (WB8R)
- Oct 4, 2025, Kalamazoo ARC/SMART Vintage Electronics Expo (WB8R)
- Oct 4, 2025, Copper Country Hamfest, Baraga, MI (TBD)
- Oct 11, 2025, Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest, Muskegon, MI (WB8R)
- Oct 19, 2025, USECA Hamfest, St. Clair Shores, MI (TBD)
- Dec 7, 2025, LCARC ARC Hamfest, Troy, MI (WB8R)



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)

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

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.

 **MARC VITAL STATISTICS** 

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN July 2025

None

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN August 2025

KE8RNA KD8MMH

MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING IN September 2025

WB8WNF

CURRENT ACTIVE CLUB MEMBERSHIP

KC8ITI* N8CGP* N8ERF* W8QN* K8VFO* KC8MUD* KB8SOE K0ACP KE8DON
K8GTG N8GEM K6VWE KE8ZKS KF8BYT W8PMR KB8PGW W8PMR K8PLM
KF8DSP KF8DSP AB8PS W8DOD K8VB KF8DSK N8NTN KE8MND KC8YVF
KD0RMK AC8QF KB8HIK N4DBR WB8WNF KD8MMH KE8RNA

*Life Member

MEMBERSHIPS RECENTLY EXPIRED

KD8QAM

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

KE8ZKS KF8BYT

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

K8GTG K6VWE K8PLM KE8DON

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED IN JULY 2025

N8NTN

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED IN AUGUST 2025

W8PMR KB8HIK

Information is from data received on June 27th, 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 (mmddy) _____ 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!

