

MARC November 2025 NEWSLETTER



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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 —November 6th, 2025, at 7:30 pm, Salvation Army Building, 220 S. Waldo Ave.

Fall! Cooler temperatures and shorter days bring a different kind of charm to our hobby. It's a great time for emergency preparedness drills, indoor antenna projects, and catching signals as the ionosphere changes with the season. Whether you're chasing DX, experimenting with new modes, or connecting with fellow hams, there's always something interesting happening on the airwaves!



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View From the Top of the Tower

The October meeting saw Kanushi, KE8RNA, volunteer to serve as Vice President for MARC. Thank you, Kanushi! That leaves the positions of Quartermaster and Field Day Chairman still open for volunteers.



Also at the October meeting, we enjoyed an interesting presentation by Patrick Kahn, KG5OMX, President of MCARC (Medina County Amateur Radio Corporation), about using a Quadplexer at Field Day. This device allows one multiband antenna to be shared by multiple transceivers, each on a different band. The slides for the presentation can be found on the w8kea.org website. Thanks to Ric, KD0RMK, for arranging the speaker.

This month's presentation will be about SWR from Paul, K8PLM. It should be an engaging and informative talk, especially for newer hams and a great refresher for experienced operators. Standing Wave Ratio is an important concept in radio communications. An SWR meter uses a directional coupler to measure forward and reflected power on a transmission line; we typically want more of the former and less of the latter. The original 1949 Naval Research Laboratory paper on "*A Reflectometer for the HF Band*" can be found on the w8kea.org website under *Presentations*. The original copy, obtained from the U.S. Government archives, was nearly unreadable after decades of photocopying, so I recreated the document to the best of my ability. That reproduction is also available on the website.

Art, K0ACP, John, W8QN, and Mitchell, W8DOD, have been conducting receive and transmit testing of the repeater antenna, focusing on coverage across the county. We expect to have a report on their findings at the November meeting.

Art also organized another POTA activation, the report for which can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The school clubs are back in session, and both are off to a strong start. See the school club report later in this issue for more details.

And finally, my sincere appreciation to Kanushi, KE8RNA, our Newsletter Editor and Vice President.

Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF, MARC President

School Clubs Report

I am very pleased with how both the high school and middle school clubs are progressing. In fact, the middle school club may be doing *too* well! We are averaging around 40 students at the Middle School and about 8 students at the High School—though it's not always the same group each week due to schedule conflicts.

The longwire antenna at the middle school is performing well, but the 2004 five-band vertical continues to show a high SWR despite careful assembly. We plan to remove the vertical and are considering a mini beam for 20 meters and up as a replacement.

At the middle school, students have completed two construction projects—an LED flashlight and a code practice oscillator. They have also finished a segment on breadboarding, which allows them to create temporary circuits. This skill will come in handy for the next segment, where students will use the Arduino platform to create embedded programs that control electronic circuits.

At the high school, students are involved in a variety of activities chosen to match their individual interests and experience levels.

If you are interested in working with the students, please let me know, and we can discuss it further. The High School Club meets on Tuesdays from 2:45 to 4:45 p.m. at Midland High, and the Middle School Club meets on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at Northeast Middle School. Background checks and registration as a school volunteer are required.

Dennis, N8ERF

★ From the Michigan Section Manager, Larry Camp, WB8R- October 2025 Section News...

Greetings from the southernmost part of Michigan!

The weather is changing, and the leaves are turning from green to beautiful reds and yellows. The daylight comes to us later and leaves earlier, and the temperatures are considerably cooler both day and night. The first light frost arrived just a few days ago here in extreme southern Michigan. Mother Nature is reminding us to enjoy the colors while they last—Michigan's fall is beautiful, but what follows is not quite as pleasant in my eyes.



Congressional Letter Writing Campaign

If you have not yet sent your letter to your Congressional Representatives via the ARRL website, now is the time to do so. Information is available at www.arrl.org.

We are all in this together, and we need to put personal politics aside to do our part in preserving amateur radio for future generations. Yes, the letters all say the same thing—and that's okay. The key is that a unified message is sent by hundreds or thousands of constituents asking for action. Each letter carries a constituent's name, and the number of letters matters as much as their content.

Here in Michigan, we've seen how effective calls to action can be. We succeeded with PRB-1 and again with the amateur radio exemption to the hands-free driving law. We can do it once more with your help. Encourage your friends to participate!

Amateur Radio Club Call to Action

A directed call to action from ARRL Headquarters was sent on October 13, requesting clubs to get involved in the Congressional Letter Writing Campaign. This message supplements the earlier request for individuals to send letters supporting the House and Senate versions of the bill.

Since this notice was sent to all Michigan ARRL members who receive official correspondence from HQ, I will not reproduce it here but refer you to the email you should have already received.

2026 Michigan Section Manager

Our new Section Manager, **Ralph Katz, AA8RK**, is preparing to take charge of the Michigan ARRL Section in January 2026. Ralph and I have already met in person to discuss the section, what we've accomplished in the past and what we might achieve moving forward.

My primary role now is to answer questions and provide insights. Our section staff is made up of outstanding individuals who are not only dedicated but also highly skilled radio operators. I'm confident that I'll be leaving the section in very capable hands.

Closing Remarks

Summer is gone, and autumn is in full swing. Leaves are falling, and we've had our first frost in the southernmost counties. Football season is in full gear, and basketball practices are beginning. Each relatively warm day now feels like a gift.

Soon, thoughts will turn to the hordes of trick-or-treaters that will flood our sidewalks, and Thanksgiving menus will start to take shape. Winter is on its way, and with it—after the first of the year—a few hamfests will rise above the snowbanks to kick off a new season of activity.

Stay safe and be Radio Active!

Best 73,
Larry Camp, WB8R
MI ARRL Section Manager
 wb8r@arrl.org |  517-617-4883



From the Midland County EC...

Ric Sauer KD0RMK

Fall NWS MICON & Emergency Coordinators Meeting

The fall meeting took place a few weeks ago. Due to the government shutdown, the meeting was held virtually, and as a result, it was shorter than previous sessions. Jaclyn Anderson from the NWS gave an excellent presentation on the impact of various weather events in our region.

Because of our location and the wide range of weather events that can affect our community, the key takeaway was clear: be prepared and stay involved. Weather radar becomes less effective in detecting what's happening at ground level. In the Midland area, the White Lake facility's coverage can be as high as 7,000 feet AGL, meaning the NWS relies heavily on local reports from community members.

Everyone is encouraged to take SKYWARN® training and be ready to assist in data collection during future weather events. If you complete the basic or advanced SKYWARN® training, please let me know for tracking purposes. Include the date and course you completed, and send the information to KD0RMK@arrl.net or via Discord.

Operation Dark Sky

At the end of October, the City of Midland conducted a table-top emergency exercise at the alternate EOC facility in Homer Township. This exercise helps stakeholders demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively and ensure public safety during crises.

The scenario focused on an extended period without electricity, water, or internet, as well as the potential loss of the primary EOC. While four hours isn't enough to address every detail of such a complex situation, the event helped participants better understand potential challenges and improve future preparedness efforts.

During this exercise, I had the opportunity to speak with Jaclyn Anderson from the NWS and show her how weather alerts from the NWS automatically integrate into our local Discord server. She was impressed and mentioned this might become a topic for future discussion.

MARC Communication Trailer

Last month, we held a Field-Nic / POTA event at Woodside Park in Hope Township. The event brought together members for a great day of operating, learning, and connecting. Participants made POTA contacts, shared equipment setups, and demonstrated field deployment strategies.

The MARC trailer was onsite, equipped with both UHF/VHF and HF antennas, which performed well. This event helped confirm our ability to meet select communication needs and supported the development of procedural documentation for future deployments.

We were also joined by the Midland County Search & Rescue (MCSAR) team, who brought their trailer and demonstrated how our organizations can collaborate effectively to support the community. To learn more about MCSAR, visit www.midlandsar.org.

Being Prepared

The City of Midland website offers valuable information about emergency scenarios and safety planning. You can find resources and downloadable PDFs at:

👉 [Emergency Services & Contact Information | Midland, MI - Official Website](#)

Net Control Operators Needed

We're always looking for Net Control Operators for our Thursday evening net. Because of the upcoming holidays, several of these nets will be shortened to Traffic Nets only through the end of the year.

On other occasions, the nets will include traffic and announcements, followed by a rag chew session, a great opportunity to share ideas, accomplishments, and amateur radio knowledge.

If you're interested in learning more or volunteering, please contact Ric Sauer, KD0RMK, at KD0RMK@arrl.net.



From the Midland County RO...

Jack Robinson K8GTG

PREPARING FOR A DAMAGING STORM!

In the last few newsletters, we covered a number of ways for you to get up-to-the-minute emergency information in the event of a local Midland emergency. Please go read these how-to articles if you haven't already.

This month, Midland County and the City of Midland held an exercise on how the county will respond to a damaging weather event such as a derecho (a widespread, long-lived, straight-line wind storm). Ric Sauer and I attended, representing the amateur radio volunteers in the area.

It was a tabletop exercise involving numerous agencies, departments, and groups from all over the county, with about 80 participants. Ric and I assisted with setting up the meeting, creating a MI-CIMS incident in the state I/T system, and participating in several breakout groups to address the hypothetical scenario.

At one point, someone asked:

“What can folks at home do to prepare for an approaching storm like this?”

Here's a brief list of recommendations:

- Assume the worst: no power, water, natural gas, cellular, or internet. You might not lose all of these, but you could lose some.
- Know how to get official communications from the county or city (previous newsletters cover this in detail).
- Recharge all battery-powered devices before the storm hits.
- Keep gas tanks full and have fuel for power generators if needed.
- Fill a bathtub with water to use for flushing toilets if water service is unavailable.
- Stock up on food, water, prescription meds, and pet supplies for a few days.
- Operate generators safely: never run them inside or near a garage; keep them a safe distance from living spaces.
- Secure outdoor items such as furniture and decorations.

- Avoid calling 911 for weather or status updates—reserve that for emergencies. For non-emergency questions, call normal office numbers or 211.

County and city personnel will work diligently to restore critical services quickly, but sometimes you'll need to be self-sufficient for a few days.

Please be prepared!

UPCOMING MI RADIO EVENTS 🗓️👁️

- Dec 7, 2025, LCARC ARC Hamfest, Troy, MI (WB8R, AA8RK)
- March 21st, 2026, Lowell Amateur Radio Youth Club Hamfest (TBD)



POTA Palooza 2025

Art Peters K0ACP

FOLKS, this past July, we held a group gathering at Hope Township's Woodside Park. This coincided with both the township's summer festival and the Summer Support Your Local Park events. We set up a number of makeshift shelters – lean-tos and pop-up canopies. The club even brought out their trailer. It seemed like a universally good idea, and much fun was had.

Saturday, October 18, was the fall Get Out and Support Your Local Park POTA event, and so we held another group activation at Hope's Woodside Park. This time it was mostly just a ham event, so we went ahead and rented one of their pavilions.

The team started to assemble that Saturday morning just before 10:00 a.m. Ric, KD0RMK, was the first on site and quickly set up his VHF/UHF antenna and provided talk-in service. I set up a couple of group-use antennas, my Delta Loop at 25' and my EFHW. In the process, the skies let loose, and we were grateful for the use of the pavilion. We were soon joined by other operators, and John, KB8PGW, was our first successful activation of the day using a combination of the EFHW and his sloper. FYI, John is an exceptional CW operator, and it is like listening to music to hear him operate!

Pat and Wendy Russell were next on site and gave me a lesson on the use of our ZUMSPOT hotspots to link to D-Star reflectors. It is a real gas to be able to talk around the world using your HT and a hotspot! Wendy then went on to complete a successful activation using the Delta Loop. Dave, N4DBR, next set up in his car using his Yaesu ATAS adjustable antenna. If you've never seen one of these in action, you owe it to yourself to seek Dave out and get a demonstration! Dave was our most prolific operator of the day with over 80 Qs, including Europe and South America – WAY TO GO, DAVE!

Doug, N8NTN, got the award for the largest setup, as he brought his mobile home and set up. Once again, our illustrious President, Dennis, N8ERF, set up the club's mobile trailer and contributed with some HF Phone contacts.

The grill was lit, and Chef Mitch, W8DOD, grilled up some spectacular burgers. We then took a food break, and Mitch tried his hand at digital modes.

Our Search and Rescue folks, Keith, KB8SOE, and Ben, KF8DSP, provided tours of their mobile unit, which is really impressive and perhaps the topic for an upcoming club presentation?

Dave and I completed a POTA Crawl, which is about as much fun as you can have with your clothes on... as they would say down south. He and I worked with each other on 160, 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 6, 2, 1.25, and .70 meters. This is a great exercise and lets you get out and try bands and modes that you may not normally operate on, and is part of the learning experience.

As the crowd thinned down, I set up my Ham Radio Duo's Just OK Mini 20M antenna and went to town on CW. A highlight for me was working with Mike Spiceland, N4FFF, the co-inventor of the antenna... too much fun.

Epilogue

In winding down, I feel safe to say that a fun time was had by all. All told, we had about 200 Q's from our activation, and everyone left with a smile on their face and a tummy full of burgers with all the trimmings. All told, we had about 18–20 folks show up for a great fall day.

A special shout-out to Keith, KB8SOE, for a quick jump... Note to self: don't leave the key in the ignition.

If you've never done POTA either as a hunter or activator, I challenge you to do so. Hop on the POTA.app website, find an activation, and respond to their CQ. If you've hunted but never activated, find a local park and go try an activation, but I warn you now: the bug to get out bites hard, and once infected, you will find yourself going back for more.

I want to thank all those who helped facilitate this event either through their donations, planning, or participating, and a special thanks to my beautiful bride, KDOJHX, who not only allows but encourages me to be POTA-active.

73 es God Bless,
.../Art K0ACP

October 2nd MARC Meeting Minutes

Dennis, N8ERF, brought the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with 21 members and guests present and 4 via Zoom. Introductions were made, and a sign-in sheet was passed around. A motion was made by Max, KE8DON, to approve the September meeting minutes and seconded by Lee, KC8ITI. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – John, W8QN

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their dues.

Repeater Report – John, W8QN

John reported some problems that were being corrected and discussed the possibility of raising the tower height at the M-20 Animal Hospital location.

EC Report – Ric, KD8RMK

Ric sent a sign-up sheet around for the Thursday night Radio Net Control. Access to the current Net Control script can be found on Discord. Other discussions included the Dirty Dog Run, the October 4th SET, a meeting at White Lake, and the possibility of starting a Sunday night net.

School Clubs – Dennis, N8ERF

We are pleased with the activity at the Middle School Club and the High School Club. There are students at the middle school who are talking on the radio and learning Morse Code. Dennis will be asking for more money from the Kiwanis Club of Midland.

POTA – Art, K0ACP

A Support Your Local Park activity will be held on October 18th at Woodside Park beginning at noon. Join us if you can!

Special Election – Dennis, N8ERF

Dave, N4DBR, made a motion to elect Kanushi Desai as Vice President by acclamation. Seconded by Art, K0ACP. Motion passed. Thank you, Kanushi, for your service to our club.

Saginaw Club – Mike, KD8HMM

The Saginaw Radio Club has had an auction and has an SET coming up.

Presentation

Via Zoom, Patrick Kahn, KG5OMX, from Medina County in Texas, talked about the attributes and benefits of using a quadplexer for Field Day activities. Discussion followed. Thank you, Patrick, for your insight and knowledge.

Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lee, KC8ITI.

The meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda, KC8MUD

MARC Secretary

Items of Interest

!! DISCORD !!

Did you know we have a Midland Emergency Communication DISCORD site? This is open for all central Michigan amateur radio operators; however, it has highly targeted channels that are specific to Midland and Saginaw County as well as ARES members. Please join the members who have already become part of the server to collaborate with others who have Amateur Radio as part of their passion. <https://discord.gg/CEX7kn6ev6>

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

Kanushi Desai is in charge of presentation topics for our monthly meetings. If you have a topic on which you would like to present or would like to lead a discussion, please contact her at (989) 948-5889 or ke8rna@arrl.net. To volunteer for **net control**, contact Ric Sauer KDORMK 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](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 November 2025

none

Memberships Expiring in December 2025

KB8HIK

Current Active Club Membership

KKC8ITI* 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 WB8WNF KD8MMH KE8RNA N8NNA

*Life Member

Memberships Recently Expired

N8DBR

New Memberships

none

Renewed Memberships

none

Birthdays Celebrated in November 2025 🎂

K6VWE

Birthdays Celebrated in December 2025 🎂

N8CGP WB8WNF N8ERF

Information based on data received November 1, 2025

Crossword Puzzle of the Month :)

(email ke8rna@arrl.net for hints/ key)

Receiver Pathways

Across

1. Superhet preceder
6. BCD followers
10. UA missile made famous by YI
14. ____ loop
15. Meadow mouse
16. LA capital
17. ___ to back...
18. Part of LAN
19. Nit hatchlings
20. Teetering swizzle stick?
23. Golf ball position
25. Polite partner of TU
26. Sensors using RF
27. Antelope array element?
30. CW preposition
31. VS9H middle name
32. Employs
34. "___ that special?!"
38. Supermarket scanner?
41. What a non-ham might call rigs
42. Prefix with -line
43. I-land wine
44. CW T
45. Told to wait, on CW
46. Thicker
50. Function switch label
52. Double curve
53. Salt shaker?
57. Lone entry class
58. G-land YL title
59. Label on a PS, possibly
62. Like a xmtr in stby
63. And others, for short
64. RCA synonym
65. Rig
66. Pound brass, say

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
		20			21				22			
23	24				25			26				
27			28	29			30					
31					32	33			34	35	36	37
38					39				40			
41					42				43			
				44				45				
46	47	48	49			50	51			52		
53						54			55	56		
57					58				59		60	61
62					63				64			
65					66				67			

67. Next to Quebec

Down

1. Foxhunt activity (abbr.)
2. Ending, with engin-
3. Go on DXpeditions, far and wide
4. IT9 volcano
5. NCL-2000 mfr.
6. Olympic swimmer Janet
7. ___-12 antennas
8. High spirits
9. Whiplash preventer
10. State with transistors
11. Possible Bahamas prefix
12. Worrier's worry
13. Action people
21. MI, MO and MT, QP mo.
22. ARRL DX test mo.
23. #44, #47 and others
24. Become accustomed (to)
28. Poor ops
29. F H2O
30. Word with line or point
32. W7 state
33. The Flex, e.g.
34. Desktop feature
35. /MM quarters
36. Big bangs
37. Lock of hair
39. Hand game
40. ZS dir. from W2
44. Stg. before AF amp.

45. W4 sect.

46. A series cap. blocks it
47. Eat away
48. African owner of 27-across
49. Upper or lower user
50. Isle ____ (GD)
51. ____ Day
54. Calling in after the sked
55. Pioneer digital comm. org.
56. EME sound
60. F-land one
61. "___ bad!"

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!

